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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Adviser Abu-Sharif Meets UK's Howe

LD1307213789 Kuwait KUNA in English 2000 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] London, July 13 (KUNA)—The PLO chairman's political advisor Bassam Abu-Sharif Thursday affirmed that his meeting with British Foreign Office Secretary Geoffrey Howe was "a sign of continuing improvement of Palestinian-British relations.

Speaking exclusively to KUNA, Abu-Sharif said that the meeting was also indicative of London's desire to play "an effective and positive role in the Middle East."

On his talks with Howe, the PLO official said that they tackled organised terrorism by Israeli authorities against the Palestinian people.

During the meeting, Abu-Sharif also expressed the PLO's concern over the Israeli practices in the occupied territories.

He also informed Howe that the PLO and Palestinians are committed to two key principles, namely the Palestinian peace initiative voiced by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last December and also resisting the occupation until the last Israeli soldier is driven out of Palestine.

The PLO political advisor hoped that Britain would play a strong role in ending the suffering of Palestinians and helping them achieve self-determination and an independent state.

He said that Howe has assured him that London values highly the PLO's pro-peace stance, quoting the ranking British official as expressing his government backing of a just political settlement to the Middle East crisis.

On a possible encounter between the PLO chairman and British Premier Margaret Thatcher, Abu-Sharif said that this meeting will take place, but the date will be set later.

However, he added that this issue was not brought up during his meeting with Howe or with the State Minister at the Foreign Office William Waldegreave.

Also KUNA learnt that Abu-Sharif will fly to Paris tonight or tomorrow, where he meets with President Husni Mubarak of Egypt, who arrived there earlier today.

Denies PLO-Israeli Talks

JN1407063389 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Excerpts] London, 13 Jul (WAKH)—A meeting between British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe and visiting Palestinian Presidential Advisor Bassam Abu-Sharif was held in London today. This is the first ministerial British meeting with a Palestinian official. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, Abu-Sharif denied that any contacts, direct or indirect, had been held between the PLO and members of the Israeli Government. He said the Israeli ministers were still hesitant to commit themselves to such contacts. The United States, he added, has a duty to persuade them to change their position toward this issue. [passage omitted]

Howe-Abu-Sharif Meeting Praised

NC1307185989 Cairo MENA in English 1805 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] London, July 13 (MENA)—Faysal 'Uwaydah, director of the PLO office here, said that Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's meeting today with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's advisor Bassam Abu-Sharif confirmed Britain's support for the Palestinian people's cause and strengthened British-Palestinian relations.

In a statement to MENA 'Uwaydah said that Sir Geoffrey underlined that the Israeli Likud's decision hampered the peace process in the Middle East.

Sir Geoffrey called upon the Palestinian leadership to continue to adopt its policy of moderation which has and will result in positive results, 'Usaydah added.

Abu-Sharif is due to leave here tomorrow for Paris within the context of his current European tour.

'PLO Official' Confirms Talks With Israelis

NC1307150089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 Gmt 13 Jul 89

[Text] A PLO official has stated that the organization has held neighborly talks [muhadathat jiwar] with Israeli Government representatives and received direct messages from time to time over the past year. The Palestinian official, who asked not to be identified, was commenting on statements made by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly to the U.S. Congress in Washington yesterday.

'Abd-al-Rahman on Talks

NC1307164189 Paris AFP in English 1631 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Tunis, July 13 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organization has had "public contacts" with Israeli officials, including members of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc, a PLO spokesman said Thursday.

"Shamir is personally aware of public contacts made by several of his ministers or deputies with members of the PLO," said spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman. "The meetings were intended to precede an examination of the situation and were not a waste of time," he said.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs John Kelly said Wednesday that the United States had classified information about secret contacts between Israel and the PLO.

The Israeli Governent—which has outlawed contacts with the PLO and other "terrorist organizations"—on Thursday "categorically denied" Mr. Kelly's statement. "There are no such contacts and there won't be any in the future," Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Voice of Israel Radio.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahman said an emissary of Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a member of the Labour Party, had approached the PLO. He added that Mr. Shamir must have known about that contact.

He also said that there have been several meetings between Israeli citizens and the PLO to promote a Middle East peace dialogue, most recently in Toledo, Spain, earlier this month, between a delegation of Sephardic Jews from Israel and a member of the PLO executive committee, Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas].

The PLO is willing not only to have contacts with Israel, but to engage in "official negotiations within the framework of an international conference."

DFLP's Hawatimah on Dialogue, Syria Ties

JN1307115889 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 11 Jul 89 p 27

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Barqawi] What were the most important topics presented during the most recent meeting of the Palestinian leaderships?

[Hawatimah] The foremost issues on the agenda of the recent meetings on the level of the Palestinian leaderships were the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue; Shamir's plan, of which elections are the cornerstone; Palestinian-Arab relations; the proposed five-party conference of Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon; normalizing Palestinian-Syrian relations; the situation in Lebanon; issues dealing with the Palestinian camps; the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories; and the necessity of developing it to enable it to grow and become steadfast in the face of the Zionist oppression machine, which is now being built up in a concentrated Israeli attempt to shatter the intifadah's intensity.

The Palestinian leadership noticed when dealing with the first issue that the intifadah, which has just celebrated its 20th month, has held fast before the Israeli war machine. We also noticed at the same time that the Zionist occupation forces have begun new steps of expansion and variety in their oppression based on deportation, collective punishment, demolition of homes, and economic siege.

On this note, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin asked the enemy to legalize the Israeli oppression schemes in the Knesset to relieve the fascist occupation army of any burdens before public opinion inside Israel, the Palestinian people, and the world. This plan will hold the Israeli Government with all its sides fully responsible, thus diverting the spotlight from the direct oppression machine. This move has very grave consequences because it will push the Zionist enemy government to rally behind the occupation army in its suppression operations, which are increasing and expanding. We also noted new changes such as assigning General Yitzhaq Mordekhay as governor of the occupied Palestinian West Bank. He is very well known for his bloody oppression on the Gaza Strip over the past months, such as siege, starvation, demolition of homes, collective punishment, and heavy bloodshed in addition to special measures concerning the magnetic identity cards and tightened security on every Palestinian allowed to work inside the Israeli entity.

The sum of these measures indicates clearly that the Israeli Government is benefiting from U.S. cover for Shamir's plan and the election project. It gains more and more time, during which it becomes more and more hopeful that it will quell the intifadah and return Palestinian and Middle East affairs to normality—that is, to the stalemate and stagnation prevalent before the intifadah.

On this topic, we, the Palestinian leadership, studied a large number of these political, organizational, and material steps to deal with these developments on the ground so that the intifadah people will be able to remain steadfast and defeat the new Zionist methods of oppression, which require the mobilization of all parties in the Israeli Government through Knesset legislation.

We hope that the steps that were approved by the Palestinian leadership will be taken to pave the way to a quick implementation, especially developing the situation of the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah and the popular and national strike forces to create firm, organized instruments that will not bend before the

enemy's intense attacks, and generating financial arrangements to allow our people in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem to resolve the economic crises, which are increasing daily because of 20 months of steadfastness—the age of the intifadah.

Within this context, the Arab states have many responsibilities to implement the Casablanca summit's resolutions and translate these resolutions from mere words into action. First, the broad-based Arab committee under King Hassan II must be formed so that it can go to all the West European states and the capitals of the UN Security Council's permanent member states to develop the international stand concerning the intifadah and the Palestinian people's right to repatriation and self-determination. This committee has not yet been formed, and this is a serious shortcoming. The international atmosphere is fully appropriate because all serious attempts to sell Shamir's plan and elections have failed. The recent decisive response from the European summit in Madrid foiled U.S. pressure aimed at pushing West Europe to deal with the Israeli Government's plan and directing the pressure against the PLO and Arab states.

The leaders of the Arab states must fulfill the financial obligations approved at the recent summit so that it will be possible to deal with the economic and social difficulties facing the intifadah and to enable our people inside the occupied Arab territories to activate and develop their struggle to defeat the new wave of oppression; overcome all other difficulties; and continue to organize the people within the factions of the Unified Leadership and student's, worker's, women's, and other unified professional councils.

The Palestinian leadership paused, particularly during a bilateral meeting between Fatah and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], before the question of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. Agreement was reached on the need to fold the page of this game that was prolonged by U.S. and Israeli tactics, which aimed to flood the Middle East and the international situation with the elections plan instead of massing efforts for the sake of convening an effective international conference and entering into a serious search for a comprehensive, balanced solution that will guarantee the Palestinian people's rights, Arab rights, and security and peace for all states in the Middle East.

We observed the international failure of the election plan. This was demonstrated in the resolutions of the European summit and Socialist International and the positions of both the USSR and the PRC. Against this international situation, it is difficult for the United States to continue its efforts to sell the Shamir plan. Shamir has announced before the Israeli Cabinet that his plan is impractical and is merely a propaganda ploy to counter the Palestinian political initiative, offset the international atmosphere seeking to convene an effective international conference, and gain time to tackle the intifadah.

All this makes us say to the United States: Enough procrastination and maneuvers. The U.S.-Israeli efforts to sell the plan internationally have failed. They have also failed on the Arab summit level. We say this so that we can invite the U.S. side to a serious, in-depth discussion of the substantive issues, which will actually lead to preparations for convening the international conference in search of a comprehensive, just, and balanced solution.

We now have all the necessary and effective weapons to break with the elections plan and to reopen the door for the Palestinian initiative, the Casablanca summit resolutions, the EC summit resolutions, and the USSR, to put the Middle East peace process on the right course. It was diverted from that course by the United States and Israel last March with the objective of wasting efforts and giving Israel a new opportunity to strike at the intifadah.

There was a long pause before we were able to mobilize Arab solidarity in accordance with the Casablanca summit resolutions, which constitute a good platform for the normalization of inter-Arab relations and Palestinian-Arab relations. We found that circumstances were more appropriate than at any time in the past to intensify efforts to hold the Arab five-party meeting in order to foil the attempts of Washington and Tel Aviv to exploit contradictions among the five forward powers, to unify efforts to support the intifadah, bolster Arab solidarity, and on the international level, to expedite preparations for the international conference. This is especially necessary since there will be no solution outside the framework of this conference as long as the plans of Washington and Tel Aviv are still based on the separate and bilateral solutions of the Shultz plan. What has become clear through the three rounds of dialogue between the PLO and the United States is the search for separate bilateral solutions and the holding of elections under occupation in accordance with Shamir's plan.

The Arab five-party meeting can play a great role, and there is nothing that can obstruct this role now. There will be no excuse for any Arab state that seeks to obstruct this role following the Casablanca summit resolutions. In this regard, there was a clear agreement among the Palestinian groups, particularly between Fatah and the DFLP, to reactivate the Algerian mediation efforts between the PLO and Syria in order to expedite the resumption of dialogue between them based on the Casablanca summit resolutions and to pave the way for the Arab five-party meeting.

We have discussed the situation in Lebanon and the problems of the Palestinian camps in this Arab country. We have noted that the serious problem regarding the reconstruction of camps must be settled as soon as possible, and that funds should be made available to the UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] to reconstruct the camps with the help of their inhabitants. The dear blood that the citizens in the Sabra and Shatila camps sacrificed for the sake of the revolution and the

PLO necessitates the reconstruction of these camps as soon as possible and before next winter. It is also necessary to promote relations between the camps and their surroundings to secure a sound relationship between the sons of the camps and all the Lebanese nationalist forces so that the camps can protect themselves and contribute to the struggle against the Zionist enemy occupying southern Lebanon and Palestine.

[Al-Barqawi] You are talking clearly enough, and yet some of the points you have made must be clarified. You have said that it is important that the next page of the Palestinian-American dialogue be turned over. What is the next step? Is this the same as calling off the contacts or suspending them?

[Hawatimah] I called for filing away the American-Israeli game which is based on pressure and promoting Shamir's plan and the proposed elections under occupation. More specifically, this means rectifying the course of the dialogue to make it compatible with the will of the international community and the Palestinian will represented by the resolutions of the 19th Palestine National Council [PNC] session and its political declaration.

It is important that the Palestinian-American dialogue be sustained rather than be halted after a 15-year ban on contacts with the PLO imposed by successive U.S. Administrations. The ban on contacts with the PLO collapsed under the weight of the PNC resolutions and the subsequent turnaround in the international climate in addition to the suffocating isolation of the U.S. Mideast policies—as shown by the famous UN resolution in which 154 countries called for the president of the state of Palestine to take part in the proceedings of the UN General Assembly. The United States was thus forced to back down and engage the PLO in a dialogue.

This is not enough, however. The United States continues to insist that the dialogue does not signify recognition of the PLO or the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and independence. Washington also insists that opening the dialogue does not imply implementation of UN Resolution 194 calling for repatriation of refugees who were uprooted from their homeland, Palestine. The Americans forced the proposed elections issue on the dialogue right from its first round and then began peddling the Shamir plan after it took shape and developed during the Israeli prime minister's Washington visit in February. The U.S. Administration thus brought the mixture of the proposed elections, self-rule, and separate deals to the dialogue with a view to diverting matters toward Camp David and an American monopoly of the peace process, on the one hand, and giving Israel a respite in which to quell the intifadah on the other.

And now several months into the dialogue, it has become clear that there is no military solution to the intifadah and that a political solution must be sought. This much has been admitted by some Israeli generals and politicians. It is now clear that Israel's effort to market the elections has reached a dead end. This is why American pressure on the PLO has stopped. We have argued for changing the course of the Palestinian-American dialogue from one going around in circles to one seeking a comprehensive settlement within the framework of the international conference.

It may be argued in light of the progress of the dialogue that the United States is going full speed to sell the election plan and that it is time this game was brought to an end and matters of substance were addressed.

[Al-Barqawi] Did 'Arafat meet with Pelletreau? When do you expect the fourth official session between the two sides to take place? It is known that Palestinian leader Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] revealed that he met with U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau twice. It has also been reported that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat met with the same U.S. official. Is this correct?

[Hawatimah] A short while ago, I came from a meeting of Palestinian leaders. I can state that no meeting was held between brother 'Arafat and the U.S. ambassador. Regarding Abu-Iyad's two meetings with the U.S. ambassador, Abu-Iyad personally informed us about them and explained their proceedings. The two meetings did not get beyond the third round of the dialogue because Pelletreau carried the same ideas that are based on the election plan and self-rule. He heard the same answers from the Palestinian delegation.

It is necessary to take the dialogue a step further in the right direction. It is also necessary to use direct and clear language with the U.S. officials at the next meeting on the need to shelve the Shamir plan and to move seriously toward preparations for an international conference. In principle, we agreed that this step is necessary, especially in view of the cohesive Arab and international support for the Palestinian cause.

It is not known exactly when the fourth round will be held. However, I expect that it will be held in late August.

[Al-Barqawi] A U.S. State Department official spokesman revealed that Ambassador Pelletreau met with two Palestinian figures other than Salah Khalaf, but they requested anonimity.

[Hawatimah] Certainly 'Arafat is not among them. The names are ordinary and, indeed, do not merit publishing.

[Al-Barqawi] It is important to talk about the formation of a five-member committee by the five Arab states that would take part in an international conference. Does any side object to a meeting to discuss its formation?

[Hawatimah] Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim showed reservations in Casablanca about the five-member meeting because, he said, it was too early to take this step. The other four parties approved the idea.

In a recent meeting between PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas and Jordanian Minister al-Qasim in Amman, the Jordanians explained that their reservations had disappeared and that they were ready to discuss such a meeting.

There is one other thing: In order to hold the meeting soon, the PLO-Syrian dialogue must continue to normalize relations between them, as is the case between the PLO and other Arab states, in order to remove the obstacles facing this long-awaited meeting.

In light of this, it has been said that as Jordan has removed its reservations about the meeting, the PLO should meet with the concerned Arab parties and Algeria and urge Algeria to intensify its mediation efforts to resume the PLO-Syrian dialogue in order to create the appropriate atmosphere for holding the five-member meeting as soon as possible.

[Al-Barqawi] Despite the elapse of 5 weeks after the Al-Asad-'Arafat Casablanca meeting, we have not seen any new developments in Palestinian-Syrian relations. A few days ago, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said that there is no room for independent Palestinian decisionmaking.

[Hawatimah] As for political issues, the common denominator between the PLO and all Arab states is the Casablanca summit resolutions. Nobody can disavow his endorsement of these resolutions. Everybody has learned that an exorbitant price is always paid when attempts are made to renege on the Arab common denominators. We have also learned that reneging on the Rabat 1974 summit resolutions has caused our people and the Arab states to undergo agonies and endless forms of inter-Arab wars for 15 years. The United States and Israel exulted over these agonies and wars in which we squandered the positive results of the October war; which led to Al-Sadat's retreat with the consequent disappearance of Egypt's role; and were behind the emergence of the Camp David accords; the shuffling of all cards on the map of the entire Middle East; the destruction of Arab solidarity; and the immersion in the fires of the Iraq-Iran war which dissipated Arab strength as well as enormous international resources. All this happened at a time when all energies should have been directed toward Palestine. Thus, 15 years have been wasted. But now, each Arab state has learned from its own bitter experience that it cannot single-handedly decide on the policy to be pursued regarding the overall Middle East situation. That is why all Arab states have chosen to work under the banner of Arab solidarity through the Algiers summit resolutions which have obliterated the aggression represented by the Amman 1987 summit resolutions which shunned the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. This has been made possible by the intifadah and the tremors it has created in the Arab arena. In addition, the Casablanca summit resolutions issued 15 years after the Rabat summit resolutions have come to confirm once again that this bitter interval should not have been allowed to happen. This interval has also shown that the backwardness and shortsightedness of this or that party were behind what we have gone through. Thus, all Arab states have chosen to reiterate the resolutions endorsed 15 years ago to the effect that inter-Arab and Arab-Palestinian relations should be based on the existing common denominators.

Consequently, we say that the Casablanca summit resolutions constituted the common political groundwork among all Arab states on the one hand and also between each Arab state and Palestine on the other. The Casablanca summit has endorsed the Palestinian draft resolution.

In addition, I have learned from brothers within the Fatah movement that Syria has released approximately 300 Palestinians from its prisons and detention centers. Hence, this dictates that we explore guarantees for the success of the Algerian mediation effort which has gone a long way forward. The Algerian mediation effort contributed to the holding of the Casablanca meetings. What is important now is to activate contacts to secure a resumption of the dialogue with Algerian participation and at the request of both the Palestinian and Syrian sides.

[Al-Barqawi] It has been said that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will visit the Syrian capital, Damascus, to recite Al-Fatihah [opening chapter of the Koran] on the soul of martyr Khalil al-Wazir [Abu-Jihad] on 'Id al-Adhah. Observers believe that this is a reasonable opportunity for holding a third meeting between al-Asad and 'Arafat.

[Hawatimah] All eventualities are left open. This depends on brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], as various news media publicly talked about this opportunity. What is important is the approval granted by both sides to Algeria to continue its mediation effort and to see the dialogue between the PLO with all of its factions and Syria built on the Casablanca summit resolutions which form the common political groundwork. The factors that would contribute to the holding of a meeting among the three parties at the earliest possible opportunity are important. Nobody should delay so that we can launch a joint effort and close the door on Shamir's election plan which constitutes a tactical maneuver designed to cover up for Israeli bloody acts of repression against the Palestinian people and so that we can resume the efforts needed to prepare for the convening of an international conference.

[Al-Barqawi] Algeria is mediating between the PLO and Syria, but this mediation has been going on for a long time, indicating that there must be serious differences between the two. Could you tell us about them?

[Hawatimah] ..... [ellipses, no answer as published]

[Al-Barqawi] Fatah's next congress plans to elect a deputy to the commander in chief to replace Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. It is also reported that there is an intention to elect a Palestinian vice president. Is this true?

[Hawatimah] These organizational forms and structural formulas, which are related to our state, have nothing to do with the congress of the brothers in Fatah.

[Al-Barqawi] I did not mean Fatah, but the Palestinian state.

[Hawatimah] We believe that many of the PLO's institutions, including the formation of the leading bodies, require a large-scale democratic reform. These institutions and bodies are still very much below the level of the popular intifadah and its developments in the occupied territories. The PLO's institutions need a violent shakeup that purges all that is inactive and flaccid, and supplies many of its departments with new blood that has grown up in the last 20 years of the revolution. We have an army of educated strugglers and scholars who should take their place. Moreover, the PLO's leading institutions are no longer on the level of the intifadah and should be purged and developed, and this will necessarily reach the basic and leading bodies, the primary prompters of Palestinian action. We in the DFLP have for years been struggling for democratic reforms within the PLO's institutions, but it is now, 20 months after the intifadah, that all shortcomings within the PLO's institutions and organs have been revealed. We all recall the Algiers-Aden agreement which called for the formation of a daily general secretariat stemming from the PLO Executive Committee. It was an agreement between the democratic alliance and Fatah in 1984 for the sake of restoring the PLO's unity and rebuilding the leading institutions.

All of us also recall the PNC resolution of April 1987 which called for a collective daily action leadership stemming from the PLO's leading bodies. These calls and resolutions, however, did not come to fruition. Today, the daily events of the intifadah, which has far surpassed many of our departments and institutions, reveal how necessary it was to implement these resolutions. Had they been implemented, we would have avoided many mistakes. Nevertheless, we say the suspension of the resolutions of the Algiers-Aden agreement and the unitary PNC might be a blessing in disguise. The intifadah came to show how important and necessary it is to develop the PLO's leading and other institutions in order to deal with the requirements of the intifadah and to get away from bureaucracy and sluggishness in which some of the PLO's organs are immersed.

'Arafat Interviewed on Nonaligned Movement

LD1307144489 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1045 GMT 13 Jul 89

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, July 13 (TANJUG)—The Non-Aligned Movement is able to contribute to an efficacious solution to the Middle East crisis and elimination of other crisis spots and tensions in the world, Palestinian leader and head of the recently proclaimed independent state of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat says in an interview to the Yugoslav news agency TANJUG.

"By constantly defending the inalienable rights of the Palestinians and rejecting the Israeli policy," the non-aligned have "ensured a climate and changes in the world favourable for resolving the Palestinian problem," 'Arafat explains in the interview, obtained through the Palestine Embassy in Belgrade on the occasion of the ninth summit of non-aligned countries, scheduled to be held in the Yugoslav capital from September 4 through 7.

The non-aligned have helped change even "the stand held by the United States, which had long tried to ignore the rights of the Palestinian people," 'Arafat says.

New circumstances created in the Middle East crisis furnish an opportunity for the Non-Aligned Movement to expand its role and that is what we, as an international subject, expect of it, adds the Palestinian leader.

In spite of the fact that the Non-Aligned Movement is perhaps not sufficiently united in facing various pressures being exerted on it on the international scene, it does through its policy and stands represent an important element of international relations which cannot be ignored by anyone, 'Arafat says.

'Arafat points out in the interview that the non-aligned countries are called upon to achieve better political unity and understanding, to modernize the movement's system of operating and to create appropriate instruments to further increase its influence on the international scene. In 'Arafat's view, the movement possesses the prerequisites for becoming an inescapable factor of international equilibrium and for securing a climate of political stability, which is the most important precondition of economic progress.

Emphasizing that the "technological and economic backwardness of non-aligned countries must first be tackled," 'Arafat says that room for this is created by the narrowing of the military-pact division and the intensification of the influence of groupings founded on technological and economic interests which are lately appearing. "It is up to the non-aligned to secure a favourable position for themselves on the new international map and not to permit themselves to become dependent on new economic groupings," the PLO leader says.

Yasir 'Arafat warns that preventing countries in debt from achieving greater economic development could endanger stability in the world. To this end, it is necessary to set up an international system equipped with new instruments for the settlement of economic problems, he says.

'Arafat especially welcomes the decision of France to write off the debts of 36 of the most impoverished countries. He called on the developing countries to boost mutual cooperation and on the developed ones to balance their economic relations with the underdeveloped.

Asked to comment on the fact that Yugoslavia was the first non-aligned country which had for the second time been entrusted with the role of host and chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, the PLO leader said that this "confirms the position of Yugoslavia within the movement and on the international plane as a whole."

"Your country has conscientiously and without precedent adhered to the principles of non-aligned [as received]," 'Arafat says, recalling that Yugoslavia had wholeheartedly worked on the development of the movement, defended the principles of peaceful co-existence and always championed a more just international political and economic system. "There is no other question in which the movement is as unanimous as in regard to the fact that Yugoslavia is a symbol of the principles and policy of non-alignment," he says.

"Our people are firmly convinced that the forthcoming summit in Belgrade will give new elan to the movement and furnish it with the necessary strength for playing its role on the international plane," 'Arafat says at the end of the interview.

'Atallah on Fatah Congress, PLO, Elections

JN1007152489 Amman AL-QUDS in Arabic 10 Jul 89 pp 1, 11

["Text" of interview with 'Atallah 'Atallah, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-al-Za'im, "commander in chief of the Fatah and PLO Corrective Movement," by unidentified AFP correspondent in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] There is currently an inclination to hold a Fatah general congress and unify the Palestinian factions. What is your position on the Fatah Movement and the restoration of unity among the factions?

['Atallah] We consider the Fatah Movement, under all circumstances, the mother movement within the PLO. We are a self-corrective movement inside Fatah and the PLO; we are not a seperatist or a dissident group. We are a self-corrective movement within the framework of the Palestinian people. We believe that the Palestinian cause is not the property of this faction or that; it concerns all Palestinians wherever they are. We are searching for a way out of this stalemate in which the Palestinian cause has been trapped and which has prevented any significant progress over the past period.

We believe that raising the Palestinian cause through all means of struggle is the responsibility of all Palestinians everywhere. We think that the Palestinian cause stumbled mainly because the role of the Palestinian people was ignored. It is useless to hold a general or a special meeting for this faction or that; the solution is to mobilize all the Palestinian people, the only party with a right to determine their goals and plan their future.

[Correspondent] Do you have substantial differences with the PLO?

['Atallah] We consider ourselves an integral part of the PLO, the framework that groups all Palestinians without exception. Our differences are with the leaders of the PLO, who gave themselves the right to handle the PLO and the Palestinian cause apart from the Palestinian people.

We began our movement with a view to reforming the organizational and political disturbance in the PLO leadership. This leadership gave the responsibility of struggle for Palestine and the Palestinian cause to a few armed factions and deliberately ignored the role of the overwhelming Palestinian majority. Its empty intransigence, which was not based on Palestinian, Arab, or international facts, was the basis for banter and political maneuvers that brought nothing but loss and retreat to the Palestinian cause. [passsage omitted]

[Correspondent] Do you favor or oppose the cancellation of the Palestinian National Charter?

['Atallah] I support the decision of the Palestinian people, who have the right to give their opinion of their charter and decide whether to keep it, amend it, or cancel it. However, I oppose making successive concessions without Israel paying any price. Let me ask you: If an Arab party made these concessions, what will the Palestinian position toward this party be? [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What is your position on the Israeli plan for elections in the West Bank and Gaza?

['Atallah] This plan cancels the role of all Palestinians residing outside the occupied territories. In accepting these elections, the PLO leadership has acknowledged that it does not represent the Palestinian people; such a move reflects the leadership's abandonment of its right to represent this people. This leadership accepted the idea of elections in principle and made only one condition—namely, that the Israeli army withdraw from the main West Bank and Gaza cities. This acceptence means the PLO leadership is selling out the intifadah amid an exposed propaganda campaign of lies.

By its election plan, Israel aims to strip the PLO of its legitimacy and seperate the Palestinians inside the occupied territories from those outside. What will the fate of 4 million Palestinians living outside be?

It is enough for me to point out that the Israeli occupation authorities did not dare to put forward this plan before the disengagement of ties [between Jordan and the West Bank], because the people in the occupied Palestinian territories belonged to an independent sovereign state, exactly as the case is in the Golan and in Sinai before its liberation. After the disengagement of ties, however, the occupied territories and people living therein lost their legal cover and recognized identity. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Vows To Continue 'Armed Struggle'
LD1307130289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] According to a report of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, the Islamic Jihad Organization for the Liberation of Palestine, on the occasion of the seventh day of the courageous operation of a revolutionary Muslim Palestinian who attacked a bus carrying Zionists which resulted in the deaths of 17 of them and the injury of 27 others, has issued a statement emphasizing the continuation of armed struggle against the occupying al-Quds regime, declaring this as the only way to liberate Palestine.

In this statement, which was published yesterday afternoon in Beirut, it is stated: The continuation of the crimes of the occupying al-Quds regime, aimed at eliminating the oppressed Palestinian people and legitimizing the illegitimate Zionist regime, which is taking place with the support of world powers, makes our duty in defending our homeland all the more legitimate and sacred. In this statement it is stressed: The Muslim people of Palestine, together with the Islamic ummah, will never allow the plots hatched within the framework of giving concessions to the enemy to succeed. On this basis, just as the operation last week of one of our mujahed forces demonstrated, the only means by which the people of Palestine can achieve their legitimate rights is resistance and armed jihad and spiteful Zionists should know that they will pay dearly for their policy of elimination directed against our oppressed people.

Algeria

12 Islamic Movement Prisoners Released

LD1307201989 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Still at home, according to the daily EL MASSAH, 12 prisoners belonging to the Islamic Movement have been released during these last 48 hours. According to EL MASSAH, quoting Miloud Brahimi, the president of the Algerian Human Rights League, actions are being taken to secure the release of other prisoners.

Egypt

Security Agreement With Sudan Planned

JN1307183689 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Jul 89 pp 1, 2

[By Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that a security agreement will be signed between Egypt and Sudan within the next few weeks, and that during the talks held when the delegation of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation visited Alexandria at the end of last week, an agreement was reached with President Mubarak on the broad outlines of this agreement. According to the agreement, the Egyptian Government will help protect the Sudanese "revolution" in cooperation with the Sudanese forces to repulse "internal" and foreign aggression that might threaten the revolution in the future.

Security cooperation is also expected to include Egyptian supplies of various weapons and the necessary military hardware to deter those who were described as "dissidents," at the appropriate time. Sudan will get sophisticated electronic equipment and light weapons, including machineguns and automatic rifles. The Sudanese delegation submitted a list outlining the military needs of the Sudanese Army, and asked President Mubarak to secure these basic needs.

AL-SHA'B also learned that the Egyptian Government has begun to exert intense efforts with Sudan's neighboring African states to heal the rift in their deteriorating relations. Egypt will also exert efforts with European and other states to conclude economic agreements with Sudan to help it settle its current crisis. Within this framework, and during its next round of talks with the IMF, Egypt will make a request to the IMF to begin a new stage of negotiations with the Sudanese Government to reschedule its debts and to grant it new loans.

AL-AKHBAR Hails Sudanese Leader's Visit

NC1307211889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper has lauded the visit paid by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, leader of the Sudanese revolution of national salvation, to Cairo. It notes the visit has more than just one meaning to the two fraternal states and that it took place to dispel the clouds hanging over the skies in the Nile Valley, which some people had tried to darken for their own purposes.

In its editorial in Friday's edition, the paper asserts that Lt Gen al-Bashir's visit aimed at rectifying the situation, which some former Sudanese leaders had attempted to undo, as well as at proving to everyone that there are those in Sudan who believe in the sanctity of the ties between Cairo and Khartoum.

The paper points out that in his first meeting with President Mubarak, the Sudanese leader was fortunate in also having the opportunity to meet with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat for the first time. The paper adds that the meeting provided the opportunity for all of them to preview the meetings the Egyptian president will have with some 15 world leaders on the Middle Eastern and African issues in Paris.

Editorial Views Sudan's Leaders

JN1007120589 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Jul 89 p 3

[Editorial: "The Sudanese Leaders and Their Awareness"]

[Text] There are numerous indications to show that the new leaders in Sudan, who started the national salvation revolution and overthrew Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's government, have the political awareness needed to confront the serious challenges facing sisterly Sudan.

The departure of the first Revolution Command Council delegation to Egypt to explain the new leadership's viewpoint reflects the new leaders' concern to safeguard the distinguished historical and eternal relations between Egypt and Sudan—relations that were shaken during Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's era. The visit to Egypt also embodies the desire of the Sudanese people, who cannot believe for one moment that relations of kinship, friendship, neighborliness, and a common destiny between the two people of the Nile valley, can be broken.

The Egyptian-Sudanese relations have always been, with God's help, greater than any differences which some people try to fabricate. These relations are the outcome of the common struggle in which the blood of the two people has been mixed as one to defend the river, protect the soil, and affirm the unity of their common destiny.

The salvation revolution came to affirm the firmness of these sound convictions, which have not been shaken or affected by the irresponsible practices of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's rule.

Therefore, it was neither strange nor surprising to see that Egypt was the first country in the world to recognize the new regime in Sudan and to declare its support for the sound and free decision made by the Sudanese people. It was also neither strange nor surprising for Cairo to instruct an oil tanker to head toward a Sudanese port instead of Egypt because the interests of both countries are the same and because Egypt's concern for the needs of the Sudanese people is no less than its concern for the needs of the Egyptian people.

Other evidence of the political awareness of the new leaders in Sudan is their wise decision to embark on a dialogue with the rebels in the south and their announcement of a 1-month truce to pave the way for serious and constructive negotiations for peace in the south and for maintaining Sudan's independence and territorial integrity.

Placing the distinguished relations with Egypt and solving the southern problem at the top of the foreign policy agenda is a sound choice and reflects an earnest desire to invigorate Sudan after the country was exhausted by irresponsible adventures and maneuvers during the rule of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

There are great challenges before the new leaders in Sudan to achieve security and internal stability, to correct the economic direction, and take advantage of Sudan's huge resources and invest them in the interest of the Sudanese people.

Egypt will not hesitate for one moment to lend every assistance to the Sudanese people to help them overcome the economic crisis created by the reckless policies of the past. And the salvation revolution will have an opportunity to rectify these policies.

AL-MAJALLAH Interviews President Mubarak

PM1307112089 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 12-18 Jul 89 pp 6-9

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by correspondents 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid and 'Abd-al-Latif al-Minawi in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] It is as good as decided that you will be OAU chairman for the next session. This comes at a time of cool Afro-Arab relations. How could Egypt play a part in ending this coolness, in its capacity as OAU chairman?

[Mubarak] As you well know, Egypt is a founding member of the OAU and our cooperation with the African countries has generally not stopped. This period may have witnessed some coolness in Afro-Arab relations for many reasons. We Arabs should initiate an Afro-Arab dialogue because this is equally important to Arabs and Africans. We could pave the way to an Afro-Arab dialogue. That would of course require efforts on both sides.

[Correspondent] Your interest in Sudan and the new Sudanese regime is quite clear, and was so even before the coup. What was the extent of Egypt's role in the latest Sudanese coup?

[Mubarak] If I told you the truth you would not believe it. I heard about the coup the day it occurred, just like you. We had nothing whatsoever to do with the coup, but we expected it because circumstances pointed in that direction. The situation was rapidly deteriorating in Sudan and I was telling people around me that something would happen. Whenever the al-Ummah Party assumes power in Sudan a military coup always occurs. Nobody in Sudan except the military was capable of finding a solution. Frankly, I was happy when it happened, though I do not like military coups. I was happy because Sudan was almost lost.

[Correspondent] The official Egyptian news agency was the first to report the Sudanese coup, before any of the other news media, as much as 30 minutes before the coup communique was broadcast.

[Mubarak] (Laughing) We should take the initiative in everything.

[Correspondent] Was it merely journalistic "skill" on the part of the agency in Sudan?

[Mubarak] Yes, and the coup people gave them [the agency] the communique for release.

[Correspondent] In other words, Egypt had no part in the operation?

[Mubarak] We had absolutely no part in it, nor had Numayri or any other side. These officers carried out their action of their own accord, because they felt that the country was about to be lost. We do not interfere in the internal affairs of any state, whoever comes [to power] and goes. When Al-Mahdi assumed power he filled the world with anti-Egyptian clamor but we did not answer him. He made many statements against us but I did not answer him. When Al-Mahdi went to the OAU to deliver Sudan's speech, he was expected to deliver it in Arabic, but he made his speech in English. The Africans thought that was strange.

[Correspondent] When Al-Mahdi was in power, did you not try to rectify matters between you and him and end the old sensitivities?

[Mubarak] It is absolutely futile with him. I did not know Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi before, but I helped him out of prison without having any connection with him. His wife sent me a letter. I talked to Numayri about him and he left prison. When he came to Egypt it honored him, but he

did not stop or abandon his position on abrogation of the joint defense pact. I told him: You abrogate the pact first, then I will. Even when he sent a letter to the prime minister on abrogation of the pact a week before the coup, the language used in that letter was inappropriate.

[Correspondent] Does that fully end the tense phase in relations with Sudan?

[Mubarak] It ended with the departure of those who have gone. We bear him no grudge. What matters to us is that Sudan must not be lost. We in Egypt have 3 million Sudanese people moving between Egypt and Sudan in complete freedom, without anyone bothering them. Under the former regime, when an Egyptian fisherman in a small boat entered Sudanese territorial waters, they would arrest him and imprison him for 5 months for crossing the border by mistake. We open our borders to them in every way. Al-Mahdi undermined Sudan's relations with its neighbors.

[Correspondent] If Al-Mahdi asked for political asylum in Egypt, would you agree?

[Mubarak] I cannot answer that question now. If he makes such a request I would then think about it.

[Correspondent] There seems to be intensive contacts between you and the new leadership. Was the issue of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi discussed in these contacts?

[Mubarak] No, because that does not concern me. It did not when he was in power, and it does not now.

[Correspondent] What about granting political asylum to other Sudanese officials?

[Mubarak] They all have homes here. I would point out that political asylum is a right guaranteed by the Constitution and the law and organized under international agreements. We would grant that right to anyone who we consider needs political asylum.

[Correspondent] Numayri is still in Egypt and has not left it.

[Mubarak] He is still here. If I had deported him the Sudanese would have been the first to object. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had sought his extradition so as to execute him, so how could I hand him over? That would have made me an accomplice to a crime. He had been convicted without trial.

[Correspondent] [Sudanese Revolution Command Council Chairman] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir also said that he would bring him to trial.

[Mubarak] He said he would bring him to trial and would not execute him. Results are what matters.

[Correspondent] Will you allow Numayri to engage in political activities in Egypt?

[Mubarak] What do you mean by political activities? If a Sudanese reporter contacts him from abroad, how can I stop him? Furthermore, when a Sudanese official delegation came to Egypt, half an hour after leaving me it visit him [Numayri]. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had himself sent a journalist to negotiate with him on the question of his return to Sudan. If he gave a telephone interview to some reporter, what could I do? Do I silence him and throw him into prison? I granted Numayri the right of political asylum to prevent bloodshed in Sudan. On the day of the coup [against Numayri] and an hour before Numayri disembarked from his aircraft, I sent word to Siwar al-Dhahab saying: Numayri will be arriving within an hour and I will persuade him to go to Sudan, so settle your affairs among yourselves. Their reply was: "We do not agree to Numayri's return. Keep him with you because there would be a bloodbath if he returned, and Egypt would be blamed for it." Before that cable arrived I had persuaded Numayri to proceed to the aircraft, but after the cable arrived I persuaded him to stay and I granted him asylum. Some time later they asked us to hand Numayri over. What is this? Am I a prison warden? Keep Numayri, then later: Hand Numayri back to us!

[Correspondent] The new leaders in Sudan have actually started economic reforms.

[Mubarak] They are a patriotic nationalist group with no ulterior motives. They saw their country approaching the abyss so they acted. They themselves have said that they once admired Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in the beginning, but he soon led the country to collapse.

[Correspondent] What is the scale of Egyptian aid to Sudan?

[Mubarak] It is not just Egyptian aid. The Arab brothers also provide aid. When I spoke to King Fahd he did not hesitate for a moment, and he issued his instructions.

[Correspondent] What about your mediation between the north and south?

[Mubarak] We had been working in that direction and the two sides actually achieved the 9 November agreement, but because it was the Unionists [Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party] who reached that agreement, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi did not submit it to the Constituent Assembly until March. Is it reasonable to jeopardize a cease-fire agreement for 5 months? How much money was spent on arms and ammunition and how many lives were lost in that 5-month period? That is why Garang and Mengistu did not trust Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

[Correspondent] What is your opinion now that the situation has changed?

[Mubarak] I believe there is room for dialogue. They are in earnest and I wish them success, and we will help as much as we can.

[Correspondent] With regard to the nature of future Egyptian-Sudanese relations, the new leaders seem to be talking the language of the sixties. They still talk about Nile valley unity and the possibility of Egyptian-Sudanese-Libyan unity.

[Mubarak] That is a Libyan proposal. In my opinion, unity in our Arab world would be unsuitable under present circumstances. It was unsuccessful because it was impractical. Each state has its own policy, sovereignty, and entity, and close cooperation can be achieved without disturbing all that. There could be cooperation in agriculture, industry, or any other field.

[Correspondent] Why could there not be Egyptian-Libyan-Sudanese tripartite cooperation?

[Mubarak] That has not been proposed to us. I am not against such cooperation, as long as it does not jeopardize the policies or sovereignty of any state.

[Correspondent] Since the Casablanca summit conference there has been some significant development in Egyptian-Libyan relations in the way of reconciliation.

[Mubarak] We met and talked frankly and clearly with the Libyan leader. He requested the reopening of borders. I agreed, and air traffic and travel then rose to such a level that a Tunisian newspaper attacked us and spoke of an Egyptian-Libyan bloc.

We do not join blocs against anyone. Do I improve relations with Libya in order to form a bloc against Tunisia? That is unreasonable. All there is to it is that the Libyans preferred to come to Egypt.

[Correspondent] Egyptian-Libyan relations have developed rapidly since the summit. What is the status of these relations now?

[Mubarak] We have opened the borders and people are travelling in both directions, and messages are constantly being exchanged via envoys.

[Correspondent] What is the Libyan opposition's attitude to Egypt?

[Mubarak] All the time the Libyan opposition was in Egypt we never allowed operations from our territory. They were not very active here.

[Correspondent] Is there an agreement with Libya for their deportation?

[Mubarak] Not at all. We do not deport anyone.

[Correspondent] What about the Libyan planes which landed in Egypt?

[Mubarak] Some have returned, and we have asked them to send people to take the rest, but nobody has come yet.

[Correspondent] How many planes are left?

[Mubarak] I think two helicopters are left.

[Correspondent] It seems that the prime minister of the Israeli enemy has given in to the demands of his Likud Party, setting impossible preconditions for implementation of the election plan in the occupied territory. Is the situation now different from what it was during the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations?

[Mubarak] I do not know what the situation is now. The points made by the party are not binding on the government. What the (Israeli) Government agreed to is what it stands for. That is what we have been told.

[Correspondent] In other words, the previous formula still stands.

[Mubarak] As far as I know. The PLO has reservations, we have reservations, and the United States itself has reservations regarding Shamir's plan—for example, the status of East Jerusalem inhabitants in the elections, the freedom of the elections, and the construction of settlements. There are several points.

[Correspondent] Are you optimistic about a future solution?

[Mubarak] I cannot say that I am not hopeful.

[Correspondent] Your statements seem to be less optimistic this time.

[Mubarak] No, I am optimistic by nature, but I wish for success with all my heart. The issue will not be resolved except at the negotiating table.

[Correspondent] What is the nature of your correspondence with President Yasir 'Arafat over the past 2 days?

[Mubarak] I have sent him a verbal message regarding the Israeli initiative. 'Arafat often visits Egypt. He can come for talks with us at any time.

[Correspondent] One of the main problems facing the Third World states is the accumulation of debts. Egypt is playing a major part in speaking for these states in a dialogue aimed at finding a reasonable solution. Could the OAU at its next session exert pressure in the negotiations?

[Mubarak] First of all, when the Third World debt problem began I spoke about it in detail at the United Nations in 1984. I then raised the issue in my speech to

the UN Conference on Trade and Development and then at the International Labor Office conference in Geneva. I did the same thing at the OAU conference. In other words, I have said a great deal about it. On my forthcoming visit to France I will raise it with the major industrial states. The OAU must play a very major role. Repeated talk about the debts problem and enlightenment in this connection do influence the various states.

[Correspondent] The United States has now announced a new position on the cancellation of debts.

[Mubarak] I have heard about the cancellation of approximately $4.3 billion.

[Correspondent] Is that a sign of a new approach?

[Mubarak] The creditor industrial states must change their position. If the developing countries cannot borrow, how can they buy? There would be a slump in those states. Furthermore, the major powers made considerable profits when oil prices fell. At one point oil sold for $40 a barrel but then dropped to $7, $8, or $10—a difference of $30 a barrel, all pocketed by the industrial states, which maintained and did not reduce the prices of their industrial products. The difference was translated into cash surpluses for these states. Therefore, they must support the medium and poor countries so as to enable them to purchase their products. It is the poor states which purchase the wealthy states' products. The situation is as follows: If you do not help the developing countries, then they will be unable to buy your products, your sales will suffer, and there will be a slump, unemployment, and social tension. So you must help these states to keep the wheel turning.

[Correspondent] What about Egypt's solutions for its debts crisis? Will economic austerity be the only solution?

[Mubarak] I believe that what we have is a program for economic reform.

[Correspondent] What about overdue debts?

[Mubarak] We are trying to reschedule them with the IMF with a view to making repayment over a longer period.

[Correspondent] Locally, the Parties Committee has now refused to grant any licenses for new parties, totalling about 10. Does that mean closing the door to such applications?

[Mubarak] We will not have a carnival of parties. There are certain conditions for forming a party such as, for example, that its program should not be similar to those of existing parties. We do not want to have to accept party duplications. There are six parties operating in the interest of the people. There is a parties law under which licenses are granted. Anyone who disagrees with the Parties Committee's decision has a right of recourse to the judiciary.

[Correspondent] Do you think that the failure of parties in Sudan is a sign of the failure of parties, or of the failure of democracy in the Third World?

[Mubarak] Every country has its own circumstances. I cannot generalize and say that the parties in the Third World countries lack credibility. I believe that parties are necessary in Egypt. Any wrongdoing would be exposed. Responsible parties contribute to reform and act as the people's watchdogs. I am for freedom of opinion. It is our safety valve.

[Correspondent] Are you satisfied with the performance of the Egyptian parties, including the ruling party?

[Mubarak] I want their presence to be constructive. That will facilitate our work and for me ease the pressure of the many mass meetings.

[Correspondent] There are rumors that you intend to oust or dismiss Interior Minister Zaki Badr because of his recent confrontations and fierce press interviews.

[Mubarak] (Laughing) No, not at all. You will hear a lot of rumors between now and October. This is the season of rumors about changes of ministers. Let them talk all night long. My assessment of matters has nothing to do with what is said.

[Correspondent] So, do you not deny the possibility of Zaki Badr's dismissal or of a cabinet reshuffle?

[Mubarak] Why should I replace Zaki Badr? Have there been any confrontations? The others were wrong. Why should I blame the minister and forget the others?

[Correspondent] Are Zaki Badr's views on political groupings and against the Muslim Brotherhood and others his own personal views?

[Mubarak] Everyone has his own personal opinions, but what is official will be said officially.

[Correspondent] Your son Jamal headed a delegation...

[Mubarak] (Interrupting) He did not head a delegation. What happened was that he was told that a plane was due to leave for Libya and was asked if he wanted to go to Libya, so he accepted, and returned the same day. That was all. To his surprise, he was asked to make a television statement, so he said a few words. He was embarrassed because he is not used to these things.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that you will not permit him to engage in politics?

[Mubarak] First of all, my son Jamal is not in Egypt. He was here on leave for 2 or 3 days during which he visited Libya.

[Correspondent] So was that an isolated incident which will not be repeated?

[Mubarak] Do you expect me to make him a crown prince?

[Correspondent] The trials of members of Egypt's Revolution Organization will resume in a few days' time. Are there any measures to summon Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir?

[Mubarak] The matter is in the hands of the judiciary. I do not interfere in this matter.

[Correspondent] Following Khomeyni's death, are there any signs of possible changes in Iran similar to the changes in Sudan, that would point to positive changes in government policies? Do you have any contacts with them?

[Mubarak] There is talk. We will consult our brothers in the Saudi Kingdom, Iraq, and the Gulf on what should be done. Why should I open a dialogue (with Iran) if it does not help to end the war and if problems are going to be created for our brothers and Arab kinfolk? Consultations are necessary and I hope positive changes will occur. The Iranians have tried war and know the calamities, losses, and hard lessons of war.

President Mubarak Meets World Leaders in Paris

Confers With Pakistan's Bhutto

NC1307142489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has begun a series of meetings with the world leaders participating in the French Revolution bicentennial.

The president met with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at 1600 today. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed international issues, the situation in the Middle East, and bilateral relations and ways of bolstering them in the various fields.

The president will also meet with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the presidents of Mexico and the Philippines.

Upon arriving in Paris today, President and Mrs Mubarak took part in the official celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution. [passage omitted]

FRG's Kohl, Mexico's Salinas

NC1307161689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met this afternoon with FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The meeting dealt with bilateral relations, developments in Sudan and their effect on stability in both Sudan and the world, and developments in relations between Egypt and Libya. The West German chancellor praised Egypt's efforts toward and support for joint Arab action to achieve peace and stability.

The two leaders also discussed developments in the Palestinian issue, the stands of the parties concerned, and prospects for a comprehensive peaceful settlement.

President Mubarak later met the Mexican president. They discussed latest developments in the Middle East region.

The Mexican president commended Egypt's role and the Casablanca summit resolutions to enhance stability in the region. The two leaders also discussed the situation in Lebanon.

Meets Philippine's Aquino

NC1307190389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1748 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Paris, 13 Jul (MENA)—Concluding his consultations with the leaders participating in the Paris celebrations, President Husni Mubarak met with Philippine President Aquino at the Elysee today.

They discussed bilateral relations in various spheres and exchanged views on international issues and regional problems of mutual concern to both countries, foremost among which are the Middle East issue and the developing countries' debt problem.

Breakfasts With Mitterrand

NC1407092689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] Paris, 14 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has praised the ties developed in various domains between Egypt and France. He said that during a breakfast with French President Francois Mitterrand this morning he discussed bilateral relations, the Lebanese problem, and the developments in Sudan. He noted that he also discussed the developments in the Middle East issue and details of the Lebanese issue and its prospects, pointing out that the Lebanese problem was the primary issue they discussed today.

On President Mitterrand's response to the four countries' initiative announced in Paris yesterday, President Mubarak said: I believe that this initiative will be discussed at the forthcoming OAU conference. We will consult over this issue and, as a matter of fact, there is

continual discussion among us over it. I believe that the dialogue between the North and the South is very useful to both the rich countries and the developing ones. Mubarak pointed out that this is a very important issue, and he believes that the 7-member summit of the industrial countries will discuss this issue. I think, he said, that they are eager to reach an agreement beneficial to both sides. Asked by a MENA correspondent whether a date has been set for the summit meeting between the North and the South, President Mubarak said that no date has yet been fixed. The issue will be discussed at the industrial countries' summit beginning in Paris today. The issue will also be discussed at the African summit in Addis Ababa next week.

Asked whether there is anything new in the U.S. stand on the Palestinian issue, Mubarak said: We will continue our dialogue on Palestine at our forthcoming meetings.

Syria's Al-Asad Greets Mubarak on 'Id al-Adha

NC1307141389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1246 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a cable of greetings from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on 'Id al-Adha. The cable says:

Your Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak: It gives me pleasure to send you and the Egyptian people my sincere greetings on the blessed 'Id al-Adha. May the Almighty bring you, the dear Egyptian people, and the Arab and Muslim nation many happy returns of this blessed occasion.

SWAPO President Nujoma Visits Cairo 8-10 Jul

Comments on Talks

NC0907202489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO], held a meeting tonight at the African Society in Cairo with the African ambassadors accredited to Cairo and with African students in Egypt.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Nujoma said he briefed President Mubarak this morning on political and diplomatic developments in Namibia which aim at ending the occupation and the apartheid policy and at implementing Security Council Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence.

Nujoma said he expressed to President Mubarak his gratitude and appreciation for Egypt's participation in the UN police force to monitor the elections and ensure that they are carried out in a free and just manner.

Nujoma said that President Mubarak assured him during their meeting that the Egyptian Government will always support the Namibian people and provide them with the necessary technical aid after they attain full independence and liberation.

Nujoma said that Egypt has always led the supporters of oppressed peoples, particularly the African peoples who are still struggling for liberation from colonialism, imperialism, and apartheid, as is the case of Namibia.

He affirmed: We are confident that after he assumes the presidency of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), President Mubarak will continue to support the causes of freedom in Africa in general and in Namibia in particular.

He said that he is also confident that President Mubarak will urge all democratic forces in the world to provide the necessary assistance to the people of Namibia to enable them to liberate their country from occupation and apartheid.

Nujoma explained that after SWAPO wins in the forthcoming elections, he will work to underline Namibia's independent policy. Namibia will also join the OAU and the African economic groupings out of its belief that political independence must be coupled with economic independence.

He affirmed that Namibia will also work for the establishment of a strong, unified African national government which would stand against any invasion of Africa by advocates of apartheid and Zionism. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference

NC1007103889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0906 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO], has expressed thanks and appreciation to the government and people of Egypt for their hospitality to the visiting SWAPO delegation.

Speaking at a news conference at al-Andalus Palace in Cairo today, Nujoma said that during his 3-day stay in Egypt, he had briefed President Mubarak on the political and diplomatic moves on the eve of Namibia's independence and the termination of apartheid.

Nujoma also thanked Egypt for its participation in the UN police forces in Namibia. [passage omitted]

Concerning the return of refugees to Namibia, Nujoma said that several children cannot return now because they are attending school in Angola and other frontline states. Those children will return when the government of independent Namibia builds schools for them in that country.

Concerning the eligible voting age in Namibia, Nujoma said that the legal age for voting is usually set somewhere between 18 and 21 years, adding that young people have taken part in the military struggle to liberate Namibia and will not be denied the right to take part in the elections which will decide their future.

Nujoma said that the future Namibia will be a democratic country based on free institutions, justice, and respect for the rights of all races and colors. The future Namibia, he added, will welcome all Namibians who worked in the service of the white minority, regardless of their actions in the past, for they will be contributing to the economic, political, and social development of the country. [passage omitted]

3-Day Visit Ends

NC1007112489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO], left Cairo for Kuwait this afternoon after a 3-day visit to Egypt.

Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a number of foreign ministry officials, saw Nujoma and the delegation accompanying him off.

During his visit, Nujoma met with President Husni Mubarak and a number of Egyptian officials for talks on the eve of Namibia's independence. He also met with African ambassadors to Egypt at the headquarters of the African Society in Cairo.

Ugandan President Departs; Ghali Comments

NC1007155589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1418 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and his wife left Cairo for London at 1615 today. He was seen off at the airport by President Husni Mubarak and his wife; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Ugandan Embassy's charge d'affaires.

Following the Ugandan president's departure, Dr Butrus Ghali disclosed that the Egyptian-Ugandan talks were held at two levels: The first at the summit level between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Yoweri Museveni, and the second at the ministerial level between himself and the Ugandan foreign minister, who is accompanying President Museveni.

Ghali said the talks between Presidents Mubarak and Museveni dealt with the African summit conference due to be held in Addis Ababa on 24 July, the issues of southern Africa, and Namibian independence.

Within this context, he noted that President Mubarak had briefed the Ugandan president on his talks in Cairo yesterday with Sam Nujoma, leader of the South-West African People's Organization. Ghali said that Presidents Mubarak and Museveni had agreed to pursue their talks in Paris, where they will participate in France's celebrations marking the bicentennial anniversary of the French revolution, due to start on Friday.

Ghali pointed out that his talks with the Ugandan foreign minsiter had dealt with a number of subjects concerning the Undugo group, which comprises the countries sharing the Nile waters, as well as the joint projects between Egypt and Uganda.

He added that the talks also covered the issues to be discussed at the African ministerial meeting due to be held in Addis Ababa on Monday prior to the African summit.

AL-WAFD on Budget Disputes Among Ministers

JN1007133889 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 7 Jul 89 pp 1, 2

[By 'Adil Sabri]

[Text] Sharp differences have erupted between Electricity and Energy Minister Eng Mahir Abaza and Planning Minister Dr Kamal al-Janzuri because the Planning Ministry has refused to increase the 1989-90 budget allocations to finance energy projects by at least 25 percent. The Electricity Ministry reports say that the Planning Ministry ignored requests for funding of projects listed at the beginning pf the second 5-year development plan. These projects were not implemented during the past 2 years because international organizations stopped the funds.

The reports say that the implementation of 60 percent of the projects to be financed during the 1989-90 fiscal year was delayed. The present situation calls for providing funds to implement the postponed projects and expediting the building of power stations listed in the emergency plan.

The Planning Ministry asked the bodies affiliated with the Electricity and Energy Ministry to find self-financing to renew power lines, fund maintenance operations at the old power stations and transformers, and borrow from Egyptian banks until money is found to finance the old projects that will be implemented in the coming stage.

The Planning Ministry also called for an agreement with the Finance Ministry to reduce the debts of the Electricity Ministry bodies so that they will be able to implement the projects that have been obstructed.

Dr al-Janzuri rejected a request by the Electricity Ministry to increase the financial allocations of the projects that are being implemented by 7 percent so that the other ministries will not ask for an increase in the allocations for their projects.

Columnist Criticizes IMF, Government Programs

JN0707162889 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Jul 89 p 1, 2

['Adil Husayn article: "Reveal the Secret Agreements With the IMF"]

[Excerpts] Professor Ibrahim Shukri, in the name of the Islamic Alliance and the people who placed their confidence in us, was forced to reject the draft budget presented by the government, which heralds for the low-income category further unemployment and price hikes.

Truly, the method in which the budget has been presented from the beginning to the end is a complete degradation. The draft was presented after the final deadline. Basic information is absent. The numbers submitted are wrong and unreliable. The time allotted for discussion and research can never be sufficient. The most dangerous thing is that what is approved by the People's Assembly is not adhered to by the government, which does not review the matter in the Peoples's Assembly or obtain consent. The results of this, as proved by alliance deputy Dr 'Isam al-'Aryan, is that the actual deficit in the past 2-year budget exceeded what was estimated before and permitted by the People's Assembly. The excess spending was not small, either. The actual deficit was nearly double the estimated deficit.

The position this year will be no different. The draft budget summarized by the National Party in the People's Assembly will remain subject to addition, deletion, and amendment without the People's Assembly's permission until the end of contacts and negotiations with the IMF, which has the final word on the general budget of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

We ask the government to respect the People's Assembly and the political parties, foremost of which is the National Party itself, as much as it respects the IMF and USAID. We want to know what they know and discuss as they do. In all cases we ask to be informed of all that is said and decided upon in the IMF's and its international allies' discussions on the budget and economy—no, on all state issues. Without this, the budget and other discussions are useless and meaningless. [passage omitted]

The IMF and its allies have started exercising a true authority, which they do not exercise in any other respectable state. So long as this is the case, this authority's resolutions should be presented officially before the People's Assembly. The intransigent stands against the State Council's rulings have rendered the legitimacy of the People's Assembly ineffective. Intentionally concealing the results of talks with the IMF has also invalidated the political legitimacy of this assembly.

We always say that economic reform is a strong, urgent demand. We also say that the cure—any cure—will definitely be bitter. We are ready to bear pain and bitterness to overcome the disasters that the subsequent National Party governments of our country have bequeathed us. However, our national Islamic reform program is diametrically opposed to the so-called IMF reform program. The disputes between the reform we are calling for and the corruption represented by the IMF program are as big as the difference between our goals and theirs. Our aim is the Arab Islamic nation's renaissance. We aim for its independence and economic integration. We aim for social justice. The IMF program however, aims to strengthen dependency and deepen the splits among the Arab economies, including all that results from that in distorting development, spreading unemployment, and oppressing the weak.

Some national economists unfortunately miss this truth. They hear the IMF referring to Egyptian defects as we do. When it talks about budget and balance of payments deficits, they think it is speaking the same language that we are. They also believe that it is a neutral technical body. They forget that political economy cannot be neutral and isolated from strategic goals. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Spokesman Denies Al-Bashir Proposal on South

NC1307203589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Staff Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, member and official spokesman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC], has denied that Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, head of the RCC, had proposed the separation of southern Sudan from the north as one radical solution to settle the problem of the south.

Sulayman asserted that the new Sudanese leadership's intention is to concentrate on achieving comprehensive national unity and on preventing the country's becoming subject to enmities and the dangers of the disintegration of its territory.

Al-Bashir Returns From Egypt 13 Jul

EA1307190089 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Jul (SUNA)—The leader of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, Lieutenant General 'Umar Ahmad al-Bashir, returned to the country at dawn following a short visit to Egypt during which he met President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Lt Gen 'Umar al-Bashir left for Cairo yesterday for a short visit during which he discussed relations between the two countries with President Mubarak.

Envoy Addresses Geneva UN Disarmament Conference
JN1307180889 Baghdad INA in English 1615 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Geneva, July 13, INA—Iraq warned the international community against the possession by the Zionist entity of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles. Iraq also noted the comprehensive efforts exerted by the Iranian regime to buy arms including chemical weapons through all means including the illegal ones.

That was stated in a speech delivered by Mr. Barzan Ibrahim, Iraq's permanent representative at the U.N. European Headquarters in Geneva today before the second session of disarmament conference which started here on June 13 last.

Iraq's representative called on the international community to take effective and appropriate measures to get rid of nuclear weapons and all destructive weapons from the Middle East region recalling the Israeli aggression against the peaceful Iraqi nuclear plant in June [1981] and the report of the U.N. secretary general concerning Iran's use of chemical weapons in its war against Iraq.

In his speech he stressed the importance of reinforcing the security of the non-nuclear countries in certain regions in the world particularly the Middle East region in the light of the Zionist entity's possessing nuclear and chemical weapons.

He declared Iraq's support and backing to the project submitted by Peru to the conference concerning preventing the attacks on nuclear centers. He said that the effects of such an aggression could not be confined only to the targeted country but they would also be comprehensive and the target would be man everywhere.

He referred in this respect to Iraq's firm attitude vis-a-vis the 1945 Geneva protocol and its continuous support for the international efforts in the field of disarmament reminding the conference that Iraq was among the first countries who joined the international treaties and conventions in this field.

The representative of Iraq decisively replied to the attack of the Iranian foreign minister in his speech before the conference last week. Iraq's representative said that the Iranian regime's representative attempted to exploit the conference for propaganda purposes and to drag it to matters out of its specializations harming by doing so its credibility as an authority upon which [the] world pins hopes to realize important achievements in disarmament.

He said that the Iranian regime through raising the issue of implementing the U.N. Security Council Resolution No. 598 before a committee which is not responsible to solve regional conflicts and not authorized to implement the Security Council resolution wanted to deviate from its responsibilities to carry out the Resolution No. 598 and to deviate from implementing the agreement of 8th August 1988 concerning ceasefire that obliged the two parties to enter into direct negotiations under the auspices of the U.N. secretary general to reach a joint understanding of all other provisions of the resolution and the measures and timings required for that.

The Iraqi representative said in his speech that the Iranian foreign minister who complained before the conference for the failure of realizing any progress in implementing the Resolution No. 598 was himself who rejected, up to this day, to abide [as received] by the direct negotiations and insisted on the selective trend in implementing the resolution so that his government would not be committed to anything.

He said if the Iranian foreign minister believed in the obligation of the Resolution No. 598, did he forget how his country had rejected the resolution for a full year after its endorsement by the Security Council and actually after the deterioration of its military front?

Iraq's representative informed the conference about the comprehensive efforts exerted by Iran to buy weapons including chemical weapons through all means including the illegal ones.

He said that the international information media were still covering the scandals of the Iranian regime in smuggling chemical materials the most recent of which were those materials smuggled from a European country and were confiscated in an Arab Gulf port. Then the European country was forced to expel the Iranian diplomats involved in the smuggling operation.

The Iraqi representative added that the speech of the Iranian regime's foreign minister did not reflect a political will in the favour of peace and did not reflect a sincere intention to establish it while efforts are exerted to realize peace.

The Iraqi representative called at the conclusion of his speech on the Iranian regime's foreign minister to abide by logic and the international relations and the modern society and to depart from the policy of deviation, cheating and cunning in order to achieve security, stability, peace and progress in the region and all its peoples.

The conference is scheduled to conclude its second session on August 31 next after discussing many major issues related to disarmament the most important among which are baning nuclear tests, stopping nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament as well as [passage indistinct].

The conference had started its first session of this year on 7th February and continued till 27th April last.

ACC Nationals Exempt From Visa Requirements

JN1307182889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—Iraq has decided to grant the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] states' nationals the right to enter and leave Iraq without obtaining entry and exit visas, and to exempt them from fees imposed on them and on their private cars as of next Monday [17 July].

A decree issued by the Revolution Command Council [RCC] today states that the ACC states' nationals have the right to enter and leave Iraq with a valid passport issued by their home country without obtaining entry and exit visas.

The decree also exempted ACC states' nationals from restrictions pertaining to movement and residence as included in the provisions of the foreigners' amended Law No 118 of 1987, provided that they do not violate security regulations in the cases defined by the security authorities.

Lt Gen Hamid Sha'ban Named Presidential Adviser

JN1307182689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—Lieutenant General Hamid Sha'ban took the constitutional oath before President Saddam Husayn today on the occasion of his appointment as an adviser to the president of the republic.

Lt Gen Hamid Sha'ban was commander of the Air Force and Air Defense during the war, and the Iraqi leadership bestowed on him all medals of valor and gave him the title of the hero of al-Qadisiyah.

New Health Minister Appointed 13 Jul

JN1307182389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jul (INA)—The appointment of 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id as health minister was announced here today. The announcement came today in a presidential decree based on the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution.

'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has assumed the post of acting health minister following the dismissal of former Health Minister Sadiq Hamid 'Allush pursuant to the instructions of the National Assembly during its previous session.

Likud Leaders Reject Labor Party's 'Ultimatums'

TA1307193789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said that last night's decision by the Labor Party ministers, according to which they expect the prime minister to make it clear that the decisions of the Likud Central Committee are null and void, only constitute an exacerbation of the crisis they themselves created.

Upon the conclusion of the meeting of the Likud Secretariat, Minister Levi told our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch that it is inconceivable that the Labor Party issue ultimatums to the Likud or threaten the prime minister.

Minister Ehud Olmert also said that the Labor Party cannot set a time limit for the prime minister. Olmert added that the prime minister does not function according to the dictates of the Labor Party. He said that the government will let the plan develop; that will serve as the best proof of the Likud's commitment to the political plan. Therefore, there is no need for statements by the prime minister on the matter.

Our correspondent reports that Levi, Sharon, and Moda'i, the three ministers who instigated the so-called braces, met before the secretariat convened and decided to demand that the secretariat begin a census of all Likud members so that a party convention could be held.

Labor Sees Possible Solution

TA1307184589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Senior Labor Party ministers say a possibility of settling the crisis with the Likud is emerging. Communications Minister Gad Ya'aqobi told the Voice of Israel that next week, meetings are planned between the prime minister and Labor Party leaders.

The Prime Minister's Office commented that the scheduled meetings are routine, but the possibility of the crisis being discussed cannot be ruled out.

The senior Labor ministers said there were Likud signals of a desire for a rapprochement to settle the crisis.

Labor Reshuffle Possible

TA1307195589 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Excerpt] The tendency in the Labor Party not to dissolve the coalition is increasing. Officially, the party is now waiting for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's move regarding the peace initiative, a move that is supposed to neutralize the Likud Central Committee's resolution concerning the four braces. Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran describes the situation:

The fervor which last week gripped the Labor Party to secede from the government is abating, while the argument over leaving the government, coupled with the need to replace the leadership, is heating up.

While the Labor Party Bureau is at this moment addressing the plight of the development towns, pressure groups against bolting the government are being formed in various party circles. These groups will soon launch a persuasion campaign aimed at making Yitzhaq Rabin the party's top leader. A message has already been relayed to Shim'on Peres saying that if he pushes for leaving the government, there will be a reshuffle in the party's top echelons. [passage omitted]

Further Reaction to Alleged Talks With PLO

Ben-Aharon Interviewed

TA1307155789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, Prime Minister's Office director general, by Gay Zohar and Goni Mardor—live]

[Excerpt] [Zohar] Good evening.

[Ben-Aharon] Good evening.

[Zohar] Were you surprised at the remarks regarding Israeli-PLO talks, after we devoted so much effort to public denials of such ties?

[Ben-Aharon] No, I was not surprised, because there are certain elements who wish to create the impression that such contacts either exist or are unavoidable. These elements are the PLO itself and those who maintain ties with it—including, to my regret, a few Israelis.

[Zohar] Americans, too?

[Ben-Aharon] Americans, too. It is a well-known fact that the Americans are conducting an official dialogue with the PLO.

[Mardor] Does the fact that we speak with the Americans imply an indirect dialogue with the PLO?

[Ben-Aharon] Absolutely not. It should be made clear that our relations with the United States have recently risen to a degree of tangible tension because of the increasingly strident protests we have made to the United States over its dialogue with the PLO. We have used all possible levels, from the highest level to the working levels, to state that this dialogue is detrimental to the chance of promoting the Israeli Government's peace initiative; that this dialogue bestows legitimacy on the PLO and encourages violence; and that there is no chance whatsoever that Israel would join this dialogue whether directly or indirectly, now or in the future.

[Zohar] Let us then examine the political process taking place at this very moment. First of all, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir presented his initiative to President Bush. What did he expect the President to do about it?

[Ben-Aharon] I want you to know that in that meeting, as well as in others we held when we accompanied the prime minister on his U.S. visit, we told the Americans: This is the initiative, these are its components, and this is its potential—without any illusions; we are not overly optimistic, and we try to be realistic. We also added at once: Gentlemen, you ought to know that this dialogue with the PLO is an obstruction, a first-degree obstacle.

[Zohar] I am trying to understand how this initiative was presented to the Americans. Although they embraced it at once, the process has not made any progress yet. This means that the Americans need an additional stage, which includes presenting the initiative to the PLO.

[Ben-Aharon] No. We believe that any attempt to present it to the PLO and to receive a green light from it achieves the opposite: a red light. We have told the Americans—and by the way, we have told the Egyptians, too, and through them, other Arab countries—if you wish to help, and if you believe this has even the slightest chance to get the process going, why do you not go ahead and persuade Arabs who live in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip that there is an opening here which can be beneficial to them, which can improve their condition and bring about a satisfactory solution. Not all their desires have been granted? Well, neither have ours. What we have here, however, is an opening for an arrangement for coexistence. There can be no common ground between us and the PLO, however, and the reason is very simple. Give me 1 minute to explain.

[Zohar] Go ahead.

[Ben-Aharon] We and the Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza have a concrete common denominator, which is the following: All of us have a vested interest in the land on which we live; both they and we want a normal life, development, services, education for our children. Now, what is the common grounds we share with the people in Tunis? Or those shared by the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and those in Tunis? The people in Tunis have entirely different priorities, the first being the so-called right of return. They wish to stake their claim on a part of what they call Palestine, in order to create a basis for continued struggle against us. [passage omitted]

More on Ben-Aharon Remarks

JN1307174589 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 13 Jul 89

[From "With the Events" program]

[Text] Remarks attributed to John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state, on negotiations between Israel and the PLO have been denied in part and parcel in Jerusalem. Our correspondent for political affairs is now at the outside broadcasting van opposite to the Prime Minister's Office. She is on the line with us. Good evening, (Yehudit).

[(Yehudit)] Good evening. We do not, did not, and will never hold any form of negotiations with the PLO. This was affirmed a short while ago by Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, in an interview I had with him. He was commenting on the reports which cited John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state, as saying that there are contacts between Israel and the PLO. Ben-Aharon affirmed that it can be indicated from the report received by the prime minister from Washington that Kelly did not say what was attributed to him. On the contrary, Kelly denied such contacts when he replied to a question by a House of Representatives member who cited Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres as saying that there is a dialogue developing between Israel and the PLO.

At any rate, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office has affirmed that holding contacts with the PLO contravenes the national unity government's basic guidlines and the government's political initiative addressed to the Arab residents of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza Strip with the aim of reaching an understanding with them on a self-rule.

Ben-Aharon added that the PLO has been, and continues to be an obstacle to peace and negatively affects it. Therefore, it cannot contribute toward pushing the peace process ahead.

On Deputy Finance Minister Dr Yosi Beilin's remarks which talk of a dialogue with the PLO, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office said that Israel's policy is specified by the government, the prime minister, and the foreign minister, not by an official at the Finance Ministry. Therefore, I do not believe Ben-Aharon said anybody in the Finance Ministry is aware of what is taking place in the political domain. He said there are no contacts, direct or indirect, between the Israeli Government and the PLO. The government informs the U.S. Administration of this position and affirms that the dialogue the United States is holding with the terrorist organization constitutes an obstacle in the way of the progress of the peace process.

Negotiations Ruled Out

JN1407122789 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 14 Jul 89

[From the "With the Midday Events" program]

[Text] Now, for the exclusive interview that our political correspondent, (Yehudit Budit), conducted with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, during which he dealt with the topics of the hour and reports suggesting that negotiations between Israel and the PLO have taken place.

[Begin Budit recording] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, has said that the peace initiative proposed by the Government of Israel still stands and that, contrary to the prevailing impression, the Likud Central Committee's resolutions did not affect it, as the prime minister has reiterated.

Ben-Aharon said: On behalf of the prime minister, I wish to confirm that the peace initiative still stands and remains valid with all of its elements. The prime minister himself is directing things according to the initiative, taking practical steps to make it progress, and holding contacts within its framework with Palestinian Arab representatives from the territories.

Ben-Aharon added that the prime minister has conducted such contacts during the past few days. However, he declined to reveal the identity of the Palestinian representatives who met with [Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq] Shamir or give details of the meetings out of respect for the participants' desires. He said: The objective of these meetings, which the prime minister is conducting, is to present the initiative to the Palestinian Arab leaders, convince them of the seriousness and sincerity of his intentions, and hear their reactions on the means to implement the initiative.

Ben-Aharon asserted that there are difficulties that have to be overcome to achieve that objective—such as the fear barrier. He said: Undoubtedly, residents of the territories have a genuine fear of terrorism and the threats made by the PLO and its agents, such as the strike forces and the Unified Leadership.

The director general of the Prime Minister's Office added that the next step must be to find an Arab partner because practical negotiations to implement the initiative will be conducted with them and not the U.S. Administration. In this regard, Ben-Aharon stressed that Israel will not hold any kind of negotiations with the PLO, which still constitutes a block to peace. He also said that the continued U.S. dialogue with the PLO harms the objective that it [the United States] seeks to achieve—to boost the peace process.

Ben-Aharon added: Until now, and until the Likud Central Committee met, no Arab side has agreed to the peace initiative. Their talk now about the initiative having received a deadly blow suggests that they are using this subject as a justification for killing the initiative.

Finally, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office expressed the hope that the necessary step will soon be taken to overcome the differences between the Likud and Labor, which caused the current crisis in the coalition, so that the national unity government can resume its regular work to implement the peace initiative. [end recording]

Shamir Cited on Issue

TA1407071689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] This morning, the prime minister himself denied again that any contacts with the PLO have taken place. He reiterated his regret over meetings between U.S. representatives and members of the organization. Addressing young Jewish leaders from the United States this morning, Shamir said that he feels the uprising in the territories is abating and that the Arab residents are weary of it. Our correspondent 'Ido Shargil reports on the prime minister's remarks:

[Begin recording] [Shargil] We are willing to negotiate with the Palestinian Arabs who live here, because they wish to coexist with us, says Shamir, adding that the PLO has no interest in establishing peace with us. It wants to see us disappear and die.

[Shamir—in English] We want to speak with people who want peace. The PLO is against peace; therefore, we do not talk to them. Unfortunately, the U.S. Government decided to talk to them. We are opposed to this, but every government makes its own decisions. They do not listen to us.

[Shargil translates and continues] Shamir adds: We are not talking with the PLO and we never will. This organization does not care about the Palestinian people at all. They are having a good time in various parts of the world; they receive a lot of money for the uprising, a large portion of which—accuses Shamir—they drop into their own pockets.

As for the intifadah, says Shamir, there are signs that it is dying out.

[Shamir—in English] We have signs, we see signs that this—what is called the uprising—this violence is going down. They are getting tired. I would say not so tired physically, as psychologically.

[Shargil translates and continues] More and more Palestinians are now convinced they will achieve nothing through violence. They can achieve a lot with us, says Shamir, through talks and not through violence. We have told them so many times that it is useless, that we want peace and we want talks. He sums up: Talks are always preferable to confrontations. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 14 July, in a similar report on the prime minister's remarks, adds: "The prime minister says that the U.S. decision not to send a delegation to Israel does not make much difference. We have permanent close relations

with the Washington administration. There are no communication difficulties between Washington and Jerusalem." The prime minister also voiced "the hope that with U.S. support, there will indeed be progress toward peace."]

Shamir Aide Denies Contacts

TA1307180389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Discussion in studio between moderator Me'ir Einstein and Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a, followed by telephone interview between them and Yosi Ahime'ir, head of the Prime Minister's Bureau—live]

[Text] [Eisenstein] Contacts between Israel and the PLO—yes or no? Jerusalem says no such contacts were ever held, but Tunis claims that they indeed took place. And just now the PLO released another press communique, in which the organization's spokesman stated that direct contacts had taken place between PLO representatives and officials from the Likud and other parties.

We will soon ask for the reaction of Yosi Ahime'ir, spokesman for the Prime Minister's Bureau, but I would first like to turn to Aharon Barne'a, our Arab affairs correspondent, who has the full details on the PLO spokesman's press communique.

[Barne'a] Actually, there were two announcements this afternoon and this evening. The first was by an unnamed source in Tunis, who requested anonymity. This is probably some senior PLO official. This afternoon this source said that Israel delivered some proposals and ideas to the PLO, both directly and indirectly, and not through U.S. mediation. This source claimed that the U.S. channel is open to enable material to be sent between Israel and the PLO and vice versa. This was the announcement this afternoon.

Two hours later, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, the PLO's official spokesman, issued another communique claiming, as you stated earlier, that direct contacts were held between Israeli representatives—from the Likud and other parties. These statements were made to the AFP correspondent in Tunis. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman also said that Prime Minister Shamir is aware of these contacts. 'Abd-al-Rahman asserted that several ministers and Knesset members [MK's] participated in these meetings, but refused to name them. He added that these meetings were intended to examine the situation in the region. 'Abd-al-Rahman stated that these meetings had not been in vain. He claimed that a representative of Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held contacts with PLO officials and that there is no doubt, according to 'Abd-al-Rahman, that Prime Minister Shamir was aware of these contacts.

Sources in the Defense Minister's Office told us this evening that there have never been any contacts with the PLO, and that none are taking place at this time.

We can make a rough guess that it is indeed quite possible that the PLO officials in Tunis are either referring to the same old story about MK Darawshah that has already been published many times—namely, that Darawshah met Yitzhaq Rabin in the Knesset snack bar and then briefed the PLO on the meeting—or to the meetings between members of the Israeli defense establishment, including the defense minister, with notables from the territories who are known to be affiliated with the PLO, such as Faysal al-Husayni, Asad al-Saftawi from Gaza, and others, who deliver their impressions from the talks with Israeli officials to PLO officials in Tunis.

[Einstein] Yes, Aharon, but I think this is the first time that the PLO has claimed to have held contacts with representatives of the Likud.

[Barne'a] Yes, this is the first time that it has expressly claimed to have held contacts with Israeli representatives from the Likud and from other parties, and also with an emissary sent by the defense minister. As I said before, the Defense Minister's Office denies the claim.

[Einstein] Good evening to Mr Yosi Ahime'ir, head of the Prime Minister's Bureau.

[Ahime'ir] Good evening.

[Einstein] Were there or were there not?

[Ahime'ir] Look, it is beneath our dignity to react to the false claims of the PLO. Every day brings new lies, every day witnesses new terror attempts. But once and for all these lies must be stopped and we must make it clear that there have never been, there are none at this time, and there will never be contacts with an organization whose only purpose is to deceive the world and international public opinion.

[Einstein] Yosi Ahime'ir, has Prime Minister Shamir met with Palestinian notables from the territories?

[Ahime'ir] Certainly. He met them in the past, meetings are taking place now, and they will continue in the future. Palestinian notables from the territories are definitely interlocutors—but on no account PLO members, people connected to the PLO, or people close to the PLO.

[Barne'a] Mr Ahime'ir, is it not possible that these people that the prime minister and the defense minister meet with deliver the impressions they garner from these contacts to PLO officials in Tunis?

[Ahime'ir] Look, it is conceivable that details of conversations or bits of information are conveyed to additional elements. We cannot be held responsible for things that are passed on. But there is no doubt that today's announcement that you quoted is designed to influence Palestinians in the territories not to talk to government representatives and other officials.

[Einstein] Mr Ahime'ir, are you sure that these same Palestinian figures that Shamir meets are not affiliated with the PLO? Have you gone over them with a fine-tooth comb?

[Ahime'ir] We cannot look under a person's skin. These are people with no connection whatsoever with the PLO. No member or representative of the government will ever talk with people linked to the PLO.

[Barne'a] And what about a different communications channel, such as the United States or even Egypt? During Minister Butrus Ghali's visit to Israel several weeks ago he met the prime minister, the foreign minister, the defense minister, here in Jerusalem. The next morning in Cairo, 'Arafat appeared in his office and Ghali briefed him regarding his talks in Jerusalem. Does this not constitute indirect contacts?

[Ahime'ir] This is not indirect contact in any way. It is true that the United States is conducting a dialogue with PLO representatives in Tunis, and it is also true that Israel maintains friendly relations with the United States. This does not mean we should end our relations with the United States. The same thing goes for Egypt—this does not mean we should stop our talks with the Egyptian Government and its representatives.

[Einstein] Thank you Mr Ahime'ir.

More on Reactions

TA1307192289 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Report by political correspondent Yig'al Goren]

[Excerpt] The poignant argument over whether indirect negotiations with the PLO are or are not being conducted is actually over definitions—because there is no controversy over the facts. Ever since direct talks between the United States and the PLO were launched, the U.S. ambassador to Israel has been constantly briefing government leaders on them.

Shamir and Arens recently notified the ambassador that they are not interested in his reports. The prime minister even requested other ministers to reject any such reports. Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, however, continue to receive updated reports from Ambassador Brown. The ambassador relays Israeli stands and messages, some of them stemming from the Prime Minister's Office, to Washington, from where they make their way to Tunis and are again recycled to Washington.

Also, in recent months several Palestinian leaders from the territories met with numerous PLO leaders. The approval for their departure from here was granted on the initiative and with the blessing of the defense minister, and with the knowledge of the prime minister. The reason behind this was to get the Palestinian notables to influence PLO leaders to moderate their stands. Defense establishment sources have even noted that these ties have already had some positive results in the field. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu on Talks With U.S. Delegation

TA1307181689 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Shlomo Ganor and Yoni Ben-Menahem on 13 July—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Ben-Menahem] A U.S. delegation is due in Israel next week. It will presumably wish to ascertain the differences in the stands of the Alignment and the Likud. What, in your opinion, is the goal of the delegation's visit?

[Netanyahu] First of all, we are waiting to hear precise details of the date of its arrival and its composition. Certainly, if the U.S. Government wishes to receive political clarifications, we will provide them, as is customary between friends.

I must say, however, that these clarifications will have to be reciprocal. We, too, want to receive certain clarifications from the United States. As I said, our initiative comprises four clauses, and not just the election clause. As we have repeatedly told the United States in various encounters, we expect it to use its influence in the Arab world to get the Arab countries to abandon the state of war with Israel; to assist us in reinforcing the peace agreements with Egypt to which the United States was a party; and to help in the establishment of an international fund headed by the United States for the rehabilitation of the refugee camps.

All the above are parts of one entity, the peace initiative, in which the United States has a central role. Therefore, although we will naturally be very glad to discuss with the United States the initiative's fourth clause, the elections, we would also like to hear about the progress made in the other parts of that initiative.

[Ben-Menahem] You have said that this delegation is coming to receive political clarifications in the wake of the Likud Central Committee resolutions. Is there no fear that this visit will exacerbate the conflict between the Alignment and the Likud?

[Netanyahu] Look, Yoni, I am very well acquainted with the United States; I think they know us very well, too, and they know that if there is one thing that the Israeli people hold dearer than anything else, it is its political independence. I think any U.S. attempt—and I find it hard to believe there will be one—to intervene in the problem between the parties will achieve an opposite effect. I believe and hope, therefore, that there will be no such attempt.

[Ben-Menahem] Speaking of Israeli-U.S. relations, we were surprised at yesterday's remarks of the assistant secretary of state in the congressional subcommittee to the effect that clandestine contacts are being conducted between Israel and the PLO. Are such contacts being held?

[Netanyahu] There are no such contacts. I must say I was surprised to hear those remarks. I would like to tell you this: I doubt that the U.S. State Department is acquainted with Israeli foreign policy better than the Israeli Foreign Ministry. If, however, there is information of some kind of contacts held by individual people, I must say I would be curious to hear about them. I do not see why a closed session is required for that. Why not tell us all?

[Ganor] Why did he see fit to say what he did?

[Netanyahu] I do not know; I am not familiar with what motivates Mr Kelly or his supervisors. All I know is that this hearing took place in Congress, where friends of Israel—who, as you know, are quite numerous—have voiced criticism of the very existence of the U.S.-PLO dialogue, and certainly of its extension. Perhaps the U.S. Administration representative thought fit to try and explain that the United States is not the only one who does it, that there are also Israelis who do it. This, then, is an opportunity to state again that we do not hold negotiations with the PLO, and we will not conduct negotiations with PLO. This is the Israeli Government's policy—officially and in practice.

[Ben-Menahem] But still, you are familiar with the U.S. system. Kelly is a representative of the U.S. Administration. Do his remarks reflect the fact that the U.S. Government is in some kind of difficulty as a result of the dialogue with the PLO?

[Netanyahu] I have no doubt that they are beginning to learn that their initial expectations with respect to the PLO's toning down and changing do not reflect reality. [passage omitted]

The PLO has undergone no genuine change, and the United States is being criticized by the Congress and by other elements. I think it must respond to this criticism. In my opinion, the best way to do this would be to stop the dialogue altogether. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] Mr Netanyahu, other unusual remarks were voiced this week by Secretary of State Baker with respect to an international conference. Do you not see a substantive change in the Bush administration's attitude to the Middle East and to Israel? Similar remarks have never been heard before.

[Netanyahu] As you know, the United States supports the Israeli Government's peace initiative. From time to time, however, various kinds of hints concerning an international conference are voiced. I would like to seize this opportunity to state plainly: There will be no international conference. There will be none because we will not attend it. No country would attend a court martial held by the international community in order to solve its conflicts. We are no different. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] Is this not the beginning of a covert U.S. pressure? Are they perhaps preparing the grounds for pressuring Israel?

[Netanyahu] I do not believe this is their intention. I am not a political commentator, but I will tell you one thing: No such pressure will avail. We will not go to an international conference.

[Ben-Menahem] What will happen if the Israeli election plan, which is part of the peace plan, encounters difficulties or is not feasible? What kind of U.S. pressure should we expect then?

[Netanyahu] You talk constantly of this and that kind of U.S. pressure. In connection with that, I have two remarks: First of all, the United States is not a monolithic body. There are many elements there who would oppose pressuring Israel. We have many friends in Congress, in the general public, and of course, in the Jewish public. By the way, a recent poll showed that no erosion in public sympathy has occurred this year, after the initial decline following the beginning of the intifadah [uprising]. I cannot say the situation is now as good as it was before the intifadah, but we do have firm grounds for support in the United States. Every element in the United States, from the highest down to the lowest levels in U.S. politics, is aware of this support.

My other remark is simple: We should expect that if any pressure is exerted, it should be directed at Arab rejectionism. On various occasions, past and present, Israel has extended its hand in peace. If any pressure is required, it should be at the Arab rejectionists, not Israel.

[Ben-Menahem] But if pressure on Israel is exerted, despite everything?

[Netanyahu] We proved in the past that we are capable of safeguarding our interests and of withstanding pressures that jeopardize our security. I do not think we are apt to reach this situation, because the above fact is also known and it, too, prevents pressure. [passage omitted]

Ben-Aharon on U.S. Delegation's Cancelled Visit

TA1407063889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Ze'ev Kohen and Yoram Ronen—live]

[Text] [Kohen] Good morning, Mr Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] And a very good morning to you.

[Kohen] Why, in your opinion, did the Americans decide to cancel, or rather postpone, the delegation's visit?

[Ben-Aharon] I believe that as already stated, the Americans did not want to appear to be interfering in Israel's internal affairs in the heat of this minicrisis. What they wanted to discuss with us were not coalition relationships, but rather ways to promote the Israeli Government's peace initiative. As long as this initiative is not operational, there is not much use in the delegation's visit.

I would like to add that because the Americans would like to promote the initiative as soon as possible, it is important for them to have a united and functioning government in Israel. As soon as this crisis is over...[changes thought] As one who has been following this whole subject and the initiative's impact in foreign capitals, I would like to hope that this crisis will soon be resolved and we will be able to resume promoting the political initiative. The Americans wish to consult with us on the next steps on this issue.

[Ronen] Perhaps you can enlighten us, Yosi Ben-Aharon, on what the prime minister proposes to do to end the crisis. Does he intend to meet with Shim'on Peres, Yitzhaq Rabin, or other Labor Party leaders to try to settle the crisis?

[Ben-Aharon] Look, I do not deal in the political aspects of the problem. I can only say that the prime minister wishes to end the affair as soon as possible, because he fully acknowledges the fact that the unity government and the promotion of this initiative is at present most vital to us, being the most efficient and credible tool to achieve negotiations for a peace settlement between us and the Arabs.

[Ronen] Thank you very much, Yosi Ben-Aharon, Prime Minister's Office director general.

Peres 'Surprised'

TA1407052689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Yoram Ronen—live]

[Text] [Ronen] Good morning, sir.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Ronen] Mr Peres, were you surprised at President Bush's decision to cancel the U.S. delegation's visit?

[Peres] I was surprised twice: first, by the news of its arrival [as heard] and now by the cancellation.

[Ronen] Are you disappointed? Do you think a U.S. delegation would have helped solve the Labor-Likud crisis?

[Peres] I do not think the Americans should be involved in the crisis between the two parties. What the Americans should be involved in is the peace process, because at present the Americans are the ones who mediate between us and the Palestinians, in the broad sense of the word. I believe the past and present reason for the crisis is the peace process. In my opinion, all the other interpretations are unfounded figments of the imagination. Therefore, if the United States has a message on the peace process issue, we will all welcome it.

[Ronen] At this stage, would you rather the U.S. delegation wait until the crisis between the parties is resolved?

[Peres] No. Let me tell you: I did not initiate the delegation's visit, and I will not tell the United States what to do. It is a very experienced country, with norms and considerations of its own. If they come, we will be very glad; if they do not, we will be very understanding. I do not think, however, that we have to invite any delegation.

[Ronen] Mr Peres, what must happen for the Labor Party to be able to revoke its bureau's decision and remain in the government? Yesterday, Likud ministers said there is a good chance that in the course of next week, the crisis will be resolved through some formula of which we have no details, but which will enable you to remain in the government.

[Peres] The situation is absolutely clear and plain. Before the Likud Central Committee convention, the prime minister and other ministers themselves pointed out the perils of the so-called braces—the four resolutions. They said that the danger is twofold: First of all, it contradicts the Knesset and government resolution. It is inconceivable that a party should adopt such a contradictory resolution in broad daylight. I mean, we were not the ones who raised the question of the extreme nature these resolutions and their ramifications in the context of peace.

After the Likud adopted these resolutions, the situation on which we had agreed with respect to the peace initiative was changed. If we revert to the former situation, we will continue operating as we had then. We did not create the crisis, nor did we change the situation. One of the resolutions stands in obvious contradiction to the peace initiative.

[Ronen] But how will you return to the former situation?

[Peres] Listen one moment. I am saying the following: For one thing, the peace initiative contains no condition making negotiations contingent on ending the intifadah [uprising]. Why is there no such condition? Not because we do not want the intifadah to end as soon as possible.

There is none because any such condition would mean giving the most radical organization right of veto. For example, would we put off negotiations if Hawatimah or George Habash or some Muslim organization would like to continue the intifadah? This should be understood. This is why no preconditions were stipulated.

Now, the Likud Central Committee, acting upon the proposal of the three ministers—Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i—decided to pose preconditions. This is a most unclear situation. Because of the Likud Central Committee resolution, we are now unable to make the first step toward peace. Furthermore, the Likud Central Committee decided that its resolution binds the cabinet ministers, and the prime minister himself made an announcement to this effect. All this has created a contradictory situation.

[Ronen] Now, however, a new situation has arisen. There is no official reason to bring the peace initiative resolution for either a discussion or renewed ratification in the government. Did Minister Sharon's reservations...

[Peres, interrupting] There were two contradictory decisions, and it is necessary to decide which is the operational one: Whether negotiations with Palestinians are to be launched in the present situation or not.

[Ronen] Do you expect that the cabinet will again discuss and ratify the peace initiative either this Sunday or next?

[Peres] Pardon me, but your formulation of the problem appears too simplistic to me. First of all, an explicit operational decision must be made. Do we launch negotiations in contravention of the Likud Central Committee resolution, despite the fact that the intifadah is going on and that it relies on a radical Arab public? Our reply is: Yes, we do. This is what the peace initiative is all about.

[Ronen] The prime minister's reply is also in the affirmative.

[Peres] The prime minister gave two answers: One in the Likud Central Committee, saying no; and the other in the vote on the peace initiative, saying yes. We must decide which of the two is the operational reply.

[Ronen] The prime minister claims that he is going on with the contacts and that he even plans to meet with Palestinians. He is going ahead with the peace initiative as if nothing has happened.

[Peres] The problem is not one of claims or contacts. The problem lies in the issue of negotiations to prepare the ground for elections. Before elections can be held, it is essential to discuss election details and the entire peace process proposal with the Palestinians. Do we launch negotiations or do we not? There is no room here for obscure, unclear remarks.

[Ronen] Mr Peres, one last question: Contradictory reports regarding meetings between Israelis and PLO officials were published yesterday. Your deputy, Yosi Beilin, said that indirect contacts have been going on for a long time. We are talking with the Americans, who talk with the PLO, the entire process constituting more or less indirect negotiations between us and the PLO.

[Peres] Well, everyone can provide their own headlines. I have no knowledge of meetings between official Israelis and PLO people. Both you and I are aware of other meetings. If, however, you are asking plainly whether to the best of my knowledge there have been contacts between official Israelis and PLO representatives, my answer is a categorical no.

[Ronen] To end this interview, Mr Peres, do you expect that it will be possible to resolve the crisis between you and the Likud?

[Peres] Look, I have read amazing things in the newspapers. First of all, everyone does my reckoning for me; everyone decides what I should and should not do. No one believes what they should believe: That the only issue on the agenda is the peace process and not considerations related to elections, internal elections, or Alignment-Likud relations. We must realize that the State of Israel is at a crossroads. An opportunity—a chance, I believe—has arisen to settle the most horrible and burdensome crisis between us and the Palestinians. We must push aside all other considerations and focus on this one. In fact, we had focused on it. I do not understand why a process which has hardly developed, which must overcome unbearable obstacles and difficulties, had to be stopped midway. I repeat: This is the key to almost every other problem in this country. This issue must be weighed and measured, while everything else should be deferred to second and third priority.

[Ronen] Why can you not meet with Yitzhaq Shamir and settle the dispute?

[Peres] I have not severed relations with anyone; we will probably meet. It is not a question of being angry at someone; it is not a matter of personal relations or even of party matters. I repeat: The only goal is to promote the peace process and create a chance for the beginning of peace in our region.

[Ronen] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, thank you very much, and have a good day.

[Peres] You, too.

Howe-Abu-Sharif Meeting Termed Peace 'Setback'

TA1407043889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu last night condemned yesterday's meeting in London between British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and PLO aide Bassam Abu-Sharif. Netanyahu called it a setback for genuine peace. [passage omitted]

[Begin Netanyahu recording] I think this is a setback. It is a setback not only for genuine peace in the Middle East, but I think it is a setback for British policy against terrorism. I may say that I think you would understand how we feel if you thought about how you would feel if we had accepted a leading member of the IRA in Jerusalem. [end recording]

Editorial Calls For 'Neutral' U.S. Position

TA0507205889 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
3 Jul 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "On the Sidelines of Bush's Message to Shamir"]

[Text] Up to this very day, despite the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue sessions held so far and some U.S. statements that we have heard—the latest of which expressed Washington's displeasure at the recent deportation by the Israeli authorities of eight Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—and in spite of U.S. hints here and there, the United States has still not been and probably will never be characterized by the credibility that will qualify it to play a major role in establishing peace in the region.

The message Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir received several days ago from U.S. President George Bush reinforces the feeling in us that the issue of U.S. "credibility" is doubtful and untrustworthy. The head of the new administration in Washington was eager to "reaffirm" the U.S. "commitment" to support Israel and its "security," as well as to declare support for the so-called "Israeli peace initiative," which calls for holding elections in the occupied territories and which still arouses misgivings.

We, for instance, do not expect the United States to abandon Israel nor tilt toward the Palestinian side, but we call on it to adopt a neutral stance that conforms at least to the manifestations of Palestinian, Arab, and international tendencies aimed at finding a solution to the Palestinian problem—a solution that will end the state of conflict in the region under the shadow of an acceptable and desired peace.

The adoption by the United States of a balanced position—if it is serious in the endeavor for peace—cannot be confirmed and taken into consideration except through effective U.S. pressure on Israel in order to induce it to accept any international initiatives that build the foundations of this peace.

The new U.S. commitment, in addition to placing many question marks on the reality of Washington's position regarding the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian problem in particular, makes us tend to believe that the United States has not ceased playing the game of procrastination with the aim of gaining time and diverting the world's attention from what is happening in the occupied territories. This will only produce troubles and difficulties in the region, adding to the problem.

'Uproar' Over PLO Talks Seen as 'Smokescreen'

TA0607051889 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
2 Jul 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Israel and Its Obvious Policy"]

[Text] The uproar unleashed by Israel in the wake of the announcement of last Monday's [26 June] meeting between U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau and Salah Khalaf [Abu-Iyad], the PLO's No 2 man, and meetings with other Palestinian personalities over the past few weeks is unjustified.

Leaving no room for doubt, the U.S. State Department has clearly announced that these meetings do not represent an upgrade of the dialogue with the PLO and do not constitute a change in U.S. policy toward this dialogue, and that the U.S. objective in the dialogue with the PLO is to advance the peace process.

Israel is well aware that the only channel of contact with the PLO began with and continues to be through Ambassador Pelletreau in Tunis. Then why this Israeli uproar? This answer to this question apparently has two aspects:

First, the United States wishes to use the dialogue in order to bring the U.S. and PLO viewpoints closer and to expand the framework of the dialogue in the future to include Israel as well. Furthermore, the U.S. Administration is trying to utilize the dialogue in order to peddle the elections plan in the occupied territories and convince the PLO of the plan's "usefulness," so that on its part, the PLO will allow Palestinian figures in the occupied territories to take part in the elections. This U.S. strategy is colliding with Israel's proclaimed objectives, which are its aim to "isolate" the PLO by means of the elections and create a body inside the occupied territories that would deal "independently" with Israel and which might be ready to abandon the cause.

The U.S. Government is fully aware that this Israeli desire is not only unrealistic but also impossible. This accounts for the divergence in viewpoints between Washington and Tel Aviv. The Israeli Government chose to exploit Pelletreau's meeting with Khalaf to depict U.S. policy as moving closer to the PLO at the expense of Israel, while bearing in mind that this is an obvious ploy which would not fool even the most naive person.

The second aspect is: Israel's aim in unleashing this uproar was to divert attention from the recent deportation of Palestinian leaders. Israel deported eight Palestinians to south Lebanon, arousing the anger of Washington and world capitals. Israel wanted to deflect this indignation by creating a smokescreen and "recording" the United States' "deviation" from its commitments to

Israel. Despite this, the U.S. State Department expressed its displeasure at and objection to all acts of deportation and transfer of Palestinians from their lands. It affirmed that this policy harms the efforts for establishing peace at any time and especially at present, when the U.S. Government senses growing international and Palestinian support for the concept of elections.

It is thus clearly evident that Israeli policy is acting in contrast to the Palestinian-U.S. efforts represented in the endeavor to achieve a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This confusion in Israeli policy will prolong the dark night which pervades the region. Moreover, this confusion will heighten the tension and squander a golden opportunity for achieving the peace which the region has been deprived of for many decades.

Commentary Sees U.S.-Shamir Clash Closer

TA0607103689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Jul 89 p 1

["Analysis" by Menahem Shalev: "Weak Shamir Show Is Slap at Uncle Sam"]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is likely to wake up this morning and try to behave as if last night never happened. The question is whether the world—especially Washington—will allow him to.

The prime minister's defenders—and they were few and far between last night—said that Shamir is likely to ignore, in practice, the Likud Central Committee decision which a senior official described last night as "a political blunder and a stinging slap in the face to the Americans."

Shamir, the defenders said, will instruct his ministerial supporters and subordinate officials to carry on as usual as far as Israel's diplomatic offensive is concerned. He's done it before, they said; it's in his nature.

But never before has a political meeting in Israel received such saturation coverage in the world media. The broadcast pictures of Shamir's "no's" are likely to produce a very uncomfortable few days for the American Jewish community and Israel's supporters in Washington.

The formal veto of the participation of East Jerusalem residents in the polls—which, the Likud decided, obligates its representatives in the government—preempts a decision on one of the most sensitive issues of the government's initiative. Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens said only a few weeks ago that it would be wiser to suspend this issue till a more advanced stage of the process is reached.

The decision for continued settlements in the territories, although it might not have any effect in practice in the next few weeks, should be especially stinging for U.S. President George Bush, who in recent weeks has not hidden his anger at Shamir's refusal to bend on this matter.

The Likud decision gives the PLO and Egypt ample grounds to tell Washington that Shamir was never serious about his proposals. It gives an unequivocal negative response on at least some of the 10 conditions for elections which Egypt conveyed to Jerusalem only this week.

Analysts in Jerusalem said last night that Washington is "up to its neck" in promotion of the proposal to hold elections, and will not seek to break with the developing peace process altogether at this point. They conceded, however, that the recently expanded dialogue between the PLO and the U.S. got a serious push forward at the Exhibition Grounds in Tel Aviv last night, and that the confrontation between Washington and Shamir, which has always been regarded as inevitable, is that much closer.

A final point: Much of Washington's patience with Shamir was a direct consequence of its appreciation of Shamir's political prowess, of which they got first hand experience in the prime minister's successful scuttling of Secretary of State Shultz's initiative last year.

Shamir last night showed political weakness which he has not exhibited for quite a while. The reports directed last night from the American Embassy here to the State Department are certain to make notable mention of this new reality.

Editorial Sees 'Nothing' Left in Shamir Plan

TA0607161089 Jerusalem Al-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Jul 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "What Remains of Shamir's Plan?"]

[Text] The agreement reached yesterday between Yitzhaq Shamir and his political rivals in the Likud at the end of the party's central committee meeting reveals once more the extent of cohesion and total conformity in the positions of the Likud Party members. This agreement disproves the allegations by which Shamir tried to hint to the world, the Arabs, and the Palestinians that sharp differences had emerged between him and his rivals and that if the Palestinians do not hasten to accept his initiative and the world does not hasten to support it, it would undermine Shamir's position as well as the initiative that he had put forward.

This outcome was no surprise to anyone who followed all the positions and policies that govern Sharon and his clique in the Likud. Shamir, who announced the initiative that bore his name, was hoping that it would meet

with Arab and Palestinian rejection. He made this initiative a complicated puzzle when he did not define many aspects of it pertaining to the future of the negotiations and the right of Jerusalem's Palestinian residents to be nominated and to vote. When he realized that the Palestinians and the Arabs accepted the principle of elections on the basis of the EC's concept, he set in motion a tactical game within the Likud that resulted in the final elimination of the initiative, as nothing remains in it worth talking about.

The Likud Party members reinforced the same ideas that have always presented an obstacle on the road to peace. How can a "peace plan" meet with success as long as the Israeli Government continues the settlement policy and as long as Shamir refuses to recognize the decisions of international legitimacy that call for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination? How can there be free elections without international supervision and Israeli withdrawal?

It has thus become very clear that Israel's notion of peace embodied in the very positions rejected by the Palestinians, the Arabs, and the international community is the notion by which the Israelis are trying to gain everything without giving anything. This was confirmed by the Likud meeting's outcome yesterday.

Perhaps the question posed today is: What remains of Shamir's plan, which was fragmentary in the first place? And will the United States continue to talk about positive points in the plan and call on the Palestinians to accept it?

Arab Reaction to Likud Decisions Assessed

JN0607170389 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1335 GMT 6 Jul 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: Following the conclusion of the Likud Central Committee's congress yesterday and the declaration of resolutions concerning the Israeli peace plan, the 'Arafatist quarters and Arab and non-Arab sides hastened to propagate various demagogic claims and allegations claiming in sum, among other things, that the Likud Central Committee resolutions prove that Israel does not want peace or that these resolutions have undermined peace opportunities and dealt a fatal blow to peace efforts.

However, the falshood of these allegations and claims becomes easily clear in light of the following objective facts:
1. The Shamir initiative is in fact an Israeli peace initiative officially endorsed by the government and the Knesset. Hence, it is a binding peace initiative for the Israeli Government, with its entire coalition structure.
2. The Likud Central Committee resolutions declared yesterday impose neither legal nor international obligations on Israel.
3. The Likud Central Committee resolutions are not resolutions or laws sent down from heaven. Practically, organizationally, and as a matter of principle, the Likud Central Committee itself is empowered to change or completely annul its resolutions if political and international circumstances change.
4. True peace has always been and will continue to be the most sublime wish for which Israel—government and people—yearns. Any Israeli government, regardless of the party or coalition forming it, must consider this wish its ultimate objective in its list of priorities.

In light of these objective facts, it also becomes clear that a principled and initial acceptance of the Israeli peace initiative actually has nothing to do with any resolution adopted or not adopted by the Likud Central Committee.

As a matter of fact, the Arab side's response to the Israeli peace plan in its general outlines will move the ball to the court of the Israeli Government coalition and the Israeli parties in the government coalition, including the Likud Party. However, the ball of peace now continues to be in the Arab court.

Commentary Analyzes Iraqi Missiles in Lebanon

TA1307141989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Jul 89 p 9

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Iraqi Missiles in Lebanon"]

[Text] Every development that is detrimental and dangerous to Syria is not necessarily beneficial to Israel. An example is the FROG missiles stationed in the Christian enclave in Lebanon under the command of General Michel 'Awn. According to information from Lebanon, the first FROG missiles have either already been unloaded from an Iraqi ship, or the ship is now docked at Juniyah port.

The immediate Israeli reaction is that if the development annoys the Syrians and forces them to cope with a new front, it is positive. This way, the Syrians will at least direct their attention away from southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights, thus benefiting Israel. In other words, FROG missiles in the hands of 'Awn are good for Israel.

This is simplistic thinking. According to this approach, we must not consent to any contact with the Shi'ite Amal organization, because it is aided by Syria. Since this organization opposes the extremist Hizballah and fights against it, often preventing Palestinians from attacking Israel from the south Lebanese border, it is considered pragmatic and relatively moderate.

In reality, however, the situation is different. Israel and Amal can have identical local interests, despite the fact that Amal is aided and armed by Syria. Conversely, it would be against Israel's interests to have Syria take control of the Christian enclave. Nevertheless, the

deployment of missiles in Lebanon, even those which at the moment are in the hands of the Christians, is liable to be much more hazardous to Israel.

The FROG missiles are certain to be accompanied by Iraqi instructors and advisers. Missiles are no mere rifles or cannons; they are a system requiring training and experienced advisers. We must vehemently oppose any Iraqi military involvement in confrontation countries bordering Israel.

In the Lebanese jungle, it is impossible to ascertain who will receive the weapons sent to that country; only the the weapons' initial address is known. The weapons' subsequent comings and goings are a mystery. Weapons and equipment that Israel sent to the Phalangists prior to the Lebanon war reached (were sold to) Palestinian organizations, among others. In one instance, such arms were used against an Israeli target in Europe.

The Americans, for instance, once complained that weapons they had sold to Israel were used by Palestinians in an attempt on the life of the U.S. ambassador in Lebanon. The FROG missiles present a similar danger.

In one way or another, one day the missiles may soon fall into the hands of either Palestinian or other radical elements. If the Iraqis decide to end their ties with 'Awn's group, they may decide to return home without the FROG missiles and to transfer some or all of them to Palestinian organizations. In other words, surface-to-surface missiles in an additional Arab country do not conform with Israel's interests, even if the Lebanese Christians are the recipients. This is a dangerous precedent. How would we react if the Libyans, for instance, equipped the Lebanese Palestinians with similar missiles?

And furthermore: The deployment of FROG missiles directed at Damascus will eventually cause a covert Syrian military action against the Christian enclave.

General 'Awn's threats to turn the missiles against Damascus will provide Syria with sufficient cause for action. Israel would not ignore a similar situation, either. We operated against the Syrian (surface-to-surface) missiles in Lebanon merely because they threatened Israel's freedom to fly in a neighboring state's airspace. If the Syrians operate against the FROG missiles, they may have to resort to their Air Force.

This, too, does not conform with Israel's security interests.

It is evident from all of the above that handing over the Iraqi FROG missiles to General 'Awn may shake the delicate balance in the Middle East even further. This move reaches far beyond the internal conflict in Lebanon. It is important to note in this context that Jordan and Egypt, which habitually preach to others about the need to maintain Middle East stability, gave a hand to this inane deed, thus contributing indirectly to destabilizing the situation in the Middle East.

The Iraqi missiles are sent by land to the port of al-'Aqabah, where they are loaded aboard Iraqi cargo ships sailing through the Suez Canal. Naturally, all this is done with the knowledge of Amman and Cairo.

Washington's reaction to the news of the Iraqi FROG missile shipments to Lebanon was harsher than that of any other party, including Israel—and rightly so. The United States appealed to Moscow, Amman, Cairo, and even Jerusalem, requesting their cooperation in preventing the shipments. It is true that Israel cannot do much, but the routine reply that Israel is not Lebanon's keeper is not automatically appropriate for every situation. The choice is not between Israeli military intervention and absolute disregard and silence. There are other means at Israel's disposal which it can use to exert pressure on and explain to the Christians that FROG missiles in Lebanon are contrary to that country's interests, too.

Brig Gen Navon on Uprising's Harm to IDF

TA1307155189 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 13 Jul 89 p 6

[Report on interview with Brigadier General Mikha'el Navon, the chief of staff's financial adviser and director of the Defense Ministry Budget Department, by Rani Raviv; date, place not given]

[Text] [Raviv] The cost of the intifadah [uprising] since its inception and up to the end of the current budget year (March 1990) will amount to nearly 1 billion shekels. This is the estimate of Brig Gen Mikha'el Navon, who is the chief of staff's financial adviser and director of the Defense Ministry Budget Department.

"The defense establishment is shouldering the burden of the uprising, and has so far not received the budgetary increments made necessary by this activity this year. We expect a separate budget that will fully cover IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operations in the territories so we can avoid any additional blows to the IDF's other missions." Navon adds that "the IDF's buildup, replenishment, and preparations for war have already been hurt."

[Raviv] Despite all expectations—and the need—no additional funds to the budget have been allocated. How does the system deal with this issue?

[Navon] In the past, policymakers assumed that risks could be taken with the defense budget. They assumed it could be slashed as part of economic policy. Meanwhile, some facts have changed in the Middle East arena—the Gulf war is over and new threats have appeared, such as chemical warfare substances and long-range missiles—but the budget cuts, nevertheless, continue.

When the Treasury was preparing the 1989 budget we told them: This framework does not even answer our minimum needs. Not only did we not receive any increments to finance our increased activity in the territories, but they cut our budget even more.

The only partial supplement we received to cover the cost of the uprising last year—and the fact that we have not received any additions whatsoever this year—have forced us to absorb the financial shortfalls ourselves. This was done at the expense of military buildup, replacement of equipment, routine activities, training exercises, and any financial reserves.

[Raviv] Does the uprising in the territories cost more than you estimated?

[Navon] Recently we presented the Treasury with the cost projection for our operations in the territories, which is higher than was earlier estimated. The defense establishment is not asking for uprising-caused expenditures that it was forced to absorb last year. As far as we are concerned, we cannot absorb any additional cuts and we will demand that expenditures be covered expeditiously. I still believe we will be reimbursed.

[Raviv] How much has the uprising in the territories actually cost the IDF up to now?

[Navon] Last year we estimated the cost of the intifadah at 412 million shekels, which in 1989 real terms is approximately 520 million shekels. This year we estimated the intifadah's cost at 420 million shekels. By March 1990 the total cost of the intifadah will amount to nearly 1 billion shekels; this does not include the damage to the economy, which is much higher. "A day of uprising" is estimated to cost 1.15 million shekels; however, this is an artificial number we do not like to use.

[Raviv] As the man responsible for dividing the budgetary pie between the various branches and departments, do you feel the lack of money on a daily basis?

[Navon] Certainly. We feel the budget shortage every day. Obviously, the minute we have to do something, like building a detention facility or developing some special equipment for use in the territories, it comes at the expense of something else. Due to the budgetary restraints, issues related to alertness and readiness will also fall into the gap between what we had planned for the 1989 work year and what was actually implemented. I have no doubt of this.

[Raviv] Every year they say that the cut in the defense budget is critical, and scream to high heaven just before it is due to be ratified. Somehow one gets the impression that the system learns to live with smaller and smaller budgets.

[Navon] We do not learn to live with smaller budgets. In the defense establishment, long-term consequences are more important than short-term effects. Therefore, the full implications of the budget cuts are difficult to substantiate and prove to someone who is not familiar with the details and processes. The burning up of our resources as a result of insufficient funding may send us to the battlefield suffering from a lack of staying power.

Iraqi Paper Says Lebanon Obtains 'Missiles'

NC1407061189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] The Iraqi newspaper AL-THAWRAH has confirmed that the Lebanese Army has obtained missiles [sawarikh], accusing Syria of creating a fuss and overreacting to Lebanon's possession of certain weapons.

The newspaper said that it is the Lebanese and not the Syrians who are entitled to express fears over the Lebanese crisis. AL-THAWRAH called on Syria to withdraw from Lebanon before the day comes when it will have to withdraw while licking its wounds, as the Iraqi newspaper put it.

'Awn Comments on Missiles

NC1407060489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has said that he is trying to avoid missile confrontation [muwajahah sarukhiyah] with Syria. He remarked, however, that there are limits to patience and that patience may run out. 'Awn underlined that he is not preparing for an escalation but that he believes in self-defense.

Concerning the naval blockade on East Beirut, 'Awn told the London-based THE MIDDLE EAST MIRROR that there is much that can be done before a confrontation becomes inevitable.

'Awn noted that FROG-7 missiles have a considerably greater range than the weapons currently available to his forces. Syria, he remarked, possesses many FROG-7, Scud, and SS-21 missiles, in addition to hundreds of the Soviet-made MiG planes.

'Awn described the flight by one of the Lebanese military aircraft over Beirut last Tuesday as a reconnaissance flight, stressing that it was not a warning for Syria.

Talks on Hostages' Release Continue

LD1307132989 Kuwait KUNA in English 1134 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Paris, July 13 (KUNA)—Despite a hardline position of the Hizballah group in Lebanon, U.S.-Iranian negotiations on the release of American hostages in Beirut have not been interrupted, it was reported here Thursday.

The Middle East affairs biweekly, MEDNEWS, reported that shortly before Khomeyni's death last May [as received], a Hizballah cleric, Zuhayr Kenj [name as received] announced in Beirut that even if Iran comes to an agreement with the U.S and decides to release the hostages, his party will not go along.

"This is because money matters have become at least as important to securing the release of the hostages as a U.S.-Iranian reconciliation," maintained MEDNEWS.

The publication says Hizballah feels it was cheated out to 2.5 million dollars of ransom money initially paid by West Germany but diverted to other groups to pay for the release of a South Korean hostage in October 1988.

"These funds wound up in a numbered account in the Banque Mediterranee in Geneva controlled by an American, a South Korean and a Lebanese national."

Despite the low-key attitude by the Bush administration, unofficial contacts continue between the U.S. and Iran, MEDNEWS said.

It pointed out that an Iranian team in Beirut was scheduled to meet an American negotiator in Cyprus last April 7th, but the meeting was called off in the last minute.

However, Iranian sources were quoted as saying an American intermediary was in Tehran shortly after Khomeyni's death for negotiations with Parliament Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In return for the release of American hostages, MEDNEWS said Iran wants the release of Iranian assets in the U.S. frozen since the take-over of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in November 1979.

Out-of-Country Deputies' Meeting Said Settled

JN0707185189 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Jul 89

[By 'Imad 'Ajami]

[Excerpt] Beirut, 7 Jul (KUNA)—An Arab envoy seeking to resolve the Lebanese crisis has gone a long way in his efforts to implement the resolutions issued by the Higher Arab Committee calling for the observance of a truce, comprehensive cease-fire and for finding common denominators among the Lebanese—denominators capable of bringing the Lebanese together in a unified state once again.

Diplomatic quarters informed KUNA today that Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general, looked optimistic today following a full day of consultations in East Beirut and in West Beirut, which has an Islamic majority.

The sources said that Ibrahimi is simultaneously tackling both the security and political plans in his talks with the officials and parties concerned in both sectors of the capital with the aim of taking two relatively advanced steps, each designed to bolster and fortify the other.

The diplomatic sources indicated that in the security plan, Ibrahimi is focusing on effecting an irreversible consolidation of the cease-fire regardless of possible complications that might affect other issues, reopening all crossings without exception, reopening the airport, and settling the issue of the structure of the security committee and observers' team to be deployed on the coast and at ports. The security committee and observers' team are to be considered separately. The prelude or only basic issue regarding the political plan concerns the travel of Lebanese deputies to any Arab state for meetings designed to come up with a formula on a new national reconciliation.

The sources revealed that Ibrahimi is not facing any complications in the arrangements for the issue of the political plan for two reasons. The first is that the issue the deputies' traveling outside Lebanon has been settled, as it has been approved. Ibrahimi sensed this approval from three effective authorities in the political arena that previously either rejected or voiced reservations on the issue. These authorities are General Michel 'Awn, head of the military government; George Sa'adah, leader of the Phalangist Party and of the Lebanese Front, consisting of Christian parties and the independent grouping of Maronite deputies; and Albert Mukhaybir, deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies.

The second reason behind this optimism is that Ibrahimi is not delving or indulging into the details of the new "national reconciliation document," considering this to be the task of the Lebanese deputies who might meet in an Arab capital. The general outlines of this document have become well known through the two draft reconciliation plans approved by the deputies. These two draft plans will presumably be merged into one draft reform plan.

The sources pointed out that Ibrahimi's talks with the concerned Lebanese parties are being coupled with Arab and international talks supporting Ibrahimi's talks, especially concerning the missile problem, which Ibrahimi is reluctant to discuss thoroughly pending the receipt of special signals from the Higher Arab Committee through the three-member ministerial committee. [passage omitted]

Amal-Hizballah Fighting Stops; Casualties Noted

NC1307141089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] The situation has returned to normal in the areas of al-Ghubayrah and Hayy Farhat after the joint Amal-Hizballah security committee curbed the clashes which broke out this morning. The intensity of artillery shelling subsided at 1400 today. Meanwhile, the shelling of the military beach, 'Ayn al-Muraysah, and the American University areas has left 1 person dead and 10 others wounded.

Sniping Reported in Suburb

NC1307172489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] The acute tension between Amal and Hizballah in the southern suburb following last night's clashes turned into intense sniping between Hayy Farhat and al-Ghubayrah. Security reports say at least one man was been wounded and that armed presence on both sides is visible in the suburb and its neighborhoods.

Syrian Shelling of Coastal Areas Reported

NC1407062689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] The coasts of Kasrawan and Jubayl have been coming under Syrian long-range artillery shelling since 0900 today. A short while ago, the shelling extended to include the northern al-Matn coasts. The Lebanese Army is dealing with the sources of fire in West Beirut.

Update on Shelling

NC1407071789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] According to security reports, artillery shells are landing in the vicinities of the military beach, al-Manarah, and the American University.

Meanwhile, violent clashes involving the use of various types of weapons are raging on the 'Aytat-Suq al-Gharb combat line.

Army Retaliates; 3 Wounded

NC1407080089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] The Syrians have aggravated the security situation since 0900 today. They shelled the Jubayl and Kasrawan coasts from their artillery emplacements in the al-Nahdah recreation ground and 'Ayn al-Muraysah, in West Beirut. The Syrian shelling is now continuing intermitently against the northern al-Matn area.

At 0905, the Syrian artillery emplacements in Ra's Bayrut and al-Rawshah also shelled the al-Matn coast. At about 0930, the shelling extended to the central al-Matn area from artillery emplacements in al-Mughithi and 'Aynturah. The al-Ashrafiyah vicinity was the target of a number of shells fired from al-Rawshah.

At 0940, the Syrians shifted their attacks to the mountain region. They shelled the army positions in Suq al-Gharb and Dahr al-Wahsh. Artillery shells also hit residential neighborhoods in 'Arayya. The Lebanese Army retaliated by shelling the Syrian positions in 'Alayh, Bhamdun, al-'Abbadiyah, and Shwit. The army also retaliated against the Syrian artillery emplacements in al-Nahdah recreation ground and 'Ayn al-Muraysah, in West Beirut. Shells reportedly fell in the military beach, Ra's Bayrut, al-Hamra', al-Manarah, and Jall al-Bahr.

As a result of the shelling of the eastern area, three people were reportedly wounded in the al-Dikwanah area.

Party Talks With YAR Delegation Open 9 Jul

JN1007113789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus—A round of talks has been held at the Ba'th Party National Command office between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade Mut'ib Shinan, member of the National Command; and the Yemeni Arab Republic [YAR] General People's Congress delegation led by Brother Husayn al-Maqdimi, member of the Consultative Council, member of the Standing Committee, and chairman of the Administration and Services Committee.

The two sides discussed relations between the two organizations and expressed satisfaction with the existing relations and their development.

Comrade Shinan reviewed the economic and political situation as well as the achievements in Syria during the past years under the leadership of struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the Republic. He also reviewed the experiment of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in leading the government and society in Syria and organizing the masses in organizations and institutions that have an effective and positive role in decisionmaking.

The talks dealt with the developments in Arab affairs in general and in Palestinian and Lebanese affairs in particular.

Comrade Shinan reiterated Syria's support for the Arab Palestinian people and their intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab territory as well as for sisterly Lebanon to safeguard its unity and independence within its Arab affiliation, to liberate its southern region from the Zionist occupation, and to achieve national reconciliation based on reforms in the Lebanese political system. Shinan affirmed Syria's cooperation with the envoys of the tripartite committee set up at the Casablanca summit to resolve the Lebanese problem.

Brother al-Maqdimi dealt with the developing bilateral relations between the General People's Congress in the YAR and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. He praised highly Syria's political stance under President Hafiz al-Asad. He also praised Syria's achievements and its stance on Arab issues.

The YAR General People's Congress delegation led by Al-Maqdimi arrived in Damascus today. The delegation was received by Comrade Mut'ib Shinan, member of the Party National Command; a number of party leaders; the YAR ambassador in Damascus; and the embassy staff.

Talks Resume in Damascus

JN1107134689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Party talks resumed between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation headed by Comrade Mut'ib Shinan, member of the Regional Command, and the General People's Congress delegation of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] headed by brother Husayn al-Maqdimi, member of the Consultative Council and Standing Committee.

The two sides exchanged viewpoints on developments in the Arab arena in general, and in the Palestinian and Lebanese arenas in particular. They affirmed their stand supporting the Palestinian Arab people and their intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories to liberate the usurped lands, establish the independent Palestinian state on Palestinian territory, provide the Lebanese people with help to save them from the tragedies they are experiencing and realize national accord, which depends on political reforms of the structure of the Lebanese system.

Concluding the talks, they affirmed the continuation of meetings, contacts, and joint coordination between the two sides to serve all Arab causes.

Delegations Issue Statement

JN1207160189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Damascus—The Yemen Arab Republic's [YAR] General People's Congress delegation led by Husayn al-Maqdimi, member of the Consultative Council and Standing Committee and chairman of the Administration and General Services Committee, left Damascus today after a 4-day visit to our country having been invited by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command. [passage omitted]

Concluding the visit, a statement was issued in which both sides affirmed their support for the continuing efforts of the Arab tripartite committee, mandated by the Casablanca summit to resolve the Lebanese question on terms that would bring about Lebanese national accord, justice, and equality among all Lebanese in their homeland; and, that would preserve Lebanon's Arab identity, unity, independence, and sovereignty and liberate its lands in the south from the Zionist enemy.

In the statement, the Yemenis expressed great appreciation for Syria's important role in Lebanon in helping the Lebanese brothers attain their national goals and bring normal life back to Lebanon. They praised its steadfastness in the face of Zionist aggression, and its resistance to schemes to set up Zionist and imperialist hegemony over the Arab nation.

The two sides affirmed the continuation of joint action and intensification of their efforts, along with all Arab political and popular organizations and forces, to rally Arab potential and efforts to promote a united Arab position against Israeli aggression. They reaffirmed their efforts to push the pan-Arab struggle toward Arab unity in seeking Arab salvation and in defense of their destiny and future.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation expressed great appreciation for the efforts to resume coordination and integration between the two parts of the Yemen to achieve Yemeni unity as a further step toward greater Arab unity.

The two sides approved a timetable for implementing the cooperation agreement held between the two parties for the years 1989-90. They expressed their satisfaction over the visit of the YAR General People's Congress' delegation to the Syrian Arab Republic, which had promoted the brotherly ties between the two organizations and the Arab nation in the two fraternal parts. [passage omitted]

AL-BA'TH on 'Awn's Position in Zionists' Plans

JN1307073889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Jul 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Zionists are Using 'Awn to Export Their Crisis," AL-BA'TH says: The Zionist escalation of the danger in southern Lebanon is simultaneous with the escalation launched by Michel 'Awn in Beirut and the mountain. Between the two enemies of Lebanon—the Zionists and 'Awn's clique—stands the mercenary Antoine Lahd who, in playing his role against the Lebanese people, receives aid and orders from both sides to quench their lust for bloodshed on Lebanese territory.

AL-BA'TH continues: This escalation comes about with a clear understanding and coordination on the part of the two enemies of Lebanon and their people along with the rulers of Iraq, who praise the Zionized clique's ability to drown Lebanon in the blood of its sons and the ability of the Zionists to time the daily murders of Lebanon's sons with Michel 'Awn's escalation of incidents and pain.

The paper adds: We firmly believe that all Lebanese in both East and West Beirut agree that Michel 'Awn is the problem and that his use of murderers and mercenaries takes on a dangerous dimension based on avenging the Zionists for their bitter loss in southern Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH concludes: If Michel 'Awn represents the most important asset the Zionists have invested in Lebanon, we are confident that those who dream of a new Lebanon and work for its benefit are capable of performing their national duty and preventing the Zionist schemes from passing through Lebanon via the Zionized clique.

Palestine Broadcast Appeals to Israeli Dissidents

JN0907182889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brothers on the path of revolution and liberation: Now that the Likud extremists—who are in alliance with their Labor lackeys and other reactionary Zionist groups that emerged from the depths of dark reactionary ages with a despicable racist ideology—are escalating their campaign against our people's great intifadah [uprising], our people must employ their weapons in the fight without hesitation.

Our people must also place before those on the other side who voice positions rejecting the crimes of criminals their responsibility to make practical moves against the criminals to demonstrate the sincerity of their stands. These sides are asked to determine themselves their practical positions on what is going on because the Palestinians have nothing to negotiate about when a murder weapon is waved above his neck.

Just as the Zionist extremists express their positions with daily crimes against our people, Jews who oppose these crimes must move to deprive the extremists of their weapons. Otherwise, they will have to pay for the consequences of the confusion in the battle in which there is no room to differentiate between the good and bad in the camp, which sides did not take distinguished positions where it is easy to make such a classification.

Those who insist on equating the murderer with the victim to justify providing the murderer with weapons of murder must realize that they are considered murderers by the victim and that they are certainly not qualified to claim that that they are concerned about peace.

He who is concerned about peace is the one who stops murdering and stops providing the murderers with weapons of murder; this is the least he can do. If he provides them with murder weapons, he becomes an accessory to murder; and if he justifies their crimes, he is an accessory to murder.

Against Israel, which rejects peace, the Palestinians have nothing but the brandished sword. It is the only language to defend usurped rights and lives threatened with uprooting.

He who wishes us death must die so that we can live. We have no other option. Let the murderers pay for their crimes. God is with us. It is an intifadah until victory is achieved—the victory of right that will restore peace to our holy land.

Afghanistan

Rebels Offer To Discuss Transitional Government

BK1307140589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1344 GMT 13 Jul 89

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Islamabad, July 13 (AFP)—Moderate Afghan guerrilla leader Mir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani said Thursday the mujahidin would agree to immediate negotiations if the Soviet Union set up a neutral transitional government in Kabul.

In an interview, Mr. Gaylani called on Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to "remove the thorn" that is the current Kabul regime if Moscow wanted a political solution to the Afghan conflict. "We hope they do," he said.

The rebel leader said the mujahidin would agree to begin negotiations "immediately" with a "true, neutral transitional government" in Kabul, but not with the present one.

"We cannot recognize or negotiate with a regime that has discredited itself by massacring tens of thousands of Afghans" over the last 10 years, he said.

He said such a government could contain people who are "currently associated" with President Najibullah's Democratic People's Party of Afghanistan, but only those "who are not criminals like him."

A "neutral government of technocrats" was possible, he said. "There are lots of acceptable people in Kabul and elsewhere."

Mr. Gaylani is leader of the Mahaz-e Eslami (National Islamic Front of Afghanistan or NIFA), a moderate pro-Western resistance group which favors the return to power of former Afghan monarch Zahir Shah.

Mr. Gaylani's group is considered the most moderate of the seven Pakistan-based mujahidin groups. Leaders of other, more militarily powerful, groups in the resistance have in the past disagreed with his views.

A hereditary Sufi leader who represents the influential Pathan families in the Moslem opposition, he is also a member of the resistance interim government formed in Pakistan five months ago.

"As soon as a neutral government is in place for a transitional period, there will be no more obstacles to the opening of immediate negotiations," he said, adding that the Kremlin had a "key role to play" in setting up a transition government since "it created" the current regime in Kabul.

"Our Western friends must also use the maximum pressure to reach this objective," he said.

Mr. Gaylani said he had discussed his proposals with the Pakistani authorities, who support the mujahidin, and the new U.S. special envoy to the Afghan resistance, Peter Tomsen, as well as Iran's foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who recently visited Islamabad.

He said he was in "permanent contact" with Zahir Shah, who is in exile in Rome. The former king "is not particularly looking for power... He is an Afghan like others. He only hopes to contribute to a solution," Mr. Gaylani said.

For its part, the mujahidin interim government must "urgently enlarge its base to be more acceptable," he said. "If we manage to do this, things can go very fast."

He said he also supported a more active political role for mujahidin commanders in Afghanistan's interior.

Asked about the current military deadlock in Afghanistan, the rebel leader said that although the mujahidin "suffered a reverse" last week near the eastern city of Jalalabad, Kabul's forces "suffer dozens of times a day elsewhere in the country."

"Even though they have better weapons than us, they are concentrated in several fortified cities and use the civilian population as a shield," he said. "This (use of civilians) is a serious handicap for us," he said, adding that he continued to oppose any frontal attacks on the cities.

Mr. Gaylani also said NIFA had 20,000 to 30,000 armed combatants and that the resistance would launch large-scale operations in the next few weeks against military bases and airports. "We are waiting for arms which were promised to us," he added.

The rebel leader refused to comment on a unilateral cease-fire offered by Kabul Monday for the period of hajj (pilgrimage) which was broken Wednesday less than an hour after it started. He said: "We are continuing our jihad (holy war). We accord no recognition whatsoever to the regime, with its strong propaganda (campaign) in recent days."

President Najibullah's 'Id al-Adha Speech 13 Jul

LD1307221789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Jul 89

["Radio and television" speech by Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, to the Muslim and religious people of Afghanistan on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha on 13 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear compatriots, Muslim sisters and brothers: May peace and God's blessings be with you. On

behalf of the Republic of Afghanistan and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, and on the occasion of the arrival of 'Id al-Adha I congratulate you, noble and religious compatriots, Afghan immigrants, commanders inside the country, and those who have chosen the path of peace, Pashtun and Baluch brothers and all the world's Muslims.

We celebrate the sacred days of 'Id al-Adha at a time when the souls and minds of our people are depressed by the continuation of war, and sadness and sorrow has taken the place of happiness among our compatriots' families—and this is the fault of those who continue the fratricidal war. This baseless and tiring war delivers our nation's children into the claws of death.

On behalf of myself and our country's leadership allow me to express our deep sorrow and sympathy to those families of the suffering Afghan nation who are in mourning; and to wish patience and tolerance to all those who have lost their loved ones as a result of continuous attacks and aggression by the armed extremist opposition and as a result of rocket fire and alien aggression against our country and our compatriots; in Kabul city and in the provinces of Nangarhar, Khowst, and Qandahar and other provinces.

Despite the fact that all our efforts are focussed on solving these problems peacefully, those who say their final word based on the continuation of war and killing Afghans, should know that the people of Afghanistan will take revenge for their children's blood from their killers. [passage omitted]

The Republic of Afghanistan, since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy, has declared a cease-fire several times during 'Id and has extended the hand of friendship and fraternity to all the opposition without exception. This action by the Republic of Afghanistan is to give the opposition a chance to come to their villages and families and to spend the 'Id days with their children and friends. And to compare peaceful conditions with the fears of war; and to come to the conclusion that continuing the war has no other result but the destruction of compatriots.

The Republic of Afghanistan has once again declared a nationwide cease-fire from 0800 on 'Arafa day [12 July]. Instructions have been given to all Armed Forces units and companies in the country—as long as the opposition do not break the cease-fire and danger does not threaten the lives of our compatriots during 'Id days—to observe the cease-fire fully. I offer congratulations on 'Id al-Adha to all personnel and brave commanders of the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces, to the soldiers, to NCO's [noncommissioned officers], officers and generals in Nangarhar, Qandahar, Khowst and other provinces of the country, in the highways, posts and barracks, to their esteemed families.

The brave personnel in the North Operational Groups, Sarowbi, Kabul's garrison, Military Corps Number I, II, III, IV and V; independent tribal and border units and detachments; brave personnel of the ministries of the State Security and Interior Affairs: I offer congratulations on 'Id al-Adha to you and your families and wish you success in defending the country's independence and territorial integrity.

There is no honor greater then the fact that the courageous children of Afghan families repel aggresion and attacks by the warmongering extremists enemies and their Pakistani, Saudi Wahhabis and U.S. supporters, during the happy days of 'Id and ensure peace for their compatriots.

I offer congratulations on 'Id to those commanders and their families inside the country who observed the cease-fire and have replied positively to the humanitarian and Islamic demand by the Republic of Afghanistan and have ended war. And we praise their acceptance of this humanitarian and peace-loving measure.

I wish Almighty God, may He be glorified, to strengthen in the hearts of these brothers mercy, fraternity, Islam and the will to end the fratricidal war.

Compatriots brothers, commanders inside the country! This is the second time that I have explained to you in my messages the results and consequences of this war of Afghans against Afghans. You, who have seen many incidents and events during the long period of war and have carried on your shoulders the fundamental burden of the war, today, when with the passing of each day the antihomeland and anti-Afghan plans of the groups' leaders are being revealed, you should begin talks and negotiations, by observing cease-fire, with the Republic of Afghanistan. All the state commitments which have been mentioned in the aforementioned messages, will be observed seriously. I expect you to observe the cease-fire and end the fratricidal war. At the present time the Republic of Afghanistan fulfills and puts into practice seriously its commitments to a number of commanders who have previously observed the cease-fire in their regions and ensured security. You can, and you should, be able to decide independently, without orders and commands from the groups' leaders. The homeland and your compatriots cannot endure the war any longer.

Dear sisters and brothers, immigrants outside the country! I congratulate you on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha. You still live in poor and hard conditions, as a result of the pressure by the extremist group leaders who are the enemies of Afghanistan's people. Pay very serious attention. The leaders of the groups and servants of the Pakistani militarists were asking you: Where are you going? Wait, we will wage war until the Soviets leave our country. Once the Soviets have left no one will stop you and then you can go home with a peace of mind.

However, you have seen how they deceive you? Now it is 5 months since the Soviets left our country, but, the group leaders and Pakistani militarists not only prevent you from returning and but also put advance reasons to continue the war.

You should ask them who is responsible for the war and who does not want you to return to your homeland, to your friends and relatives and to your villages and homes, with honor and pride. If you do not make up your minds such excuses will continue and the pockets of the leaders will become more full with money in your names. Therefore, you can send representatives to us. We will talk to them and will seek other ways, consulting you, to enable you to return to your country. Report to Afghanistan's embassies in Pakistan and other countries. We are awaiting your return to the homeland and we hope that you will celebrate other 'Ids in your country, in your own villages and under the blue sky of your country.

Pashtun and Baluch brothers, I congratulate you on the arrival of these sacred days of 'Id. You know that the implementation of the Pakistani militarists and U.S. plans will disrupt your traditional independence and tribal life. Our common enemies intend to determine the historical fate of your soil as they wish, by merging Afghanistan with Pakistan; and they want to bury forever the issue of self-determination for Pashtuns and Baluch. It is not coincidental that they have chosen Jalalabad as a place to install the government fostered by them, a place where the famous personality of the anticolonialist campaign of Pashtuns and Baluch—that is the Honor of Afghan [Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan]—is buried. Our enemies want to set fire to all our honors by such actions and destroy them. You can play an important role to end the fratricidal war. You can force the armed sabotage groups from your regions and prevent them from entering Afghanistan.

Muslims of the world, on behalf of the Muslim and religious people of Afghanistan, who are members of the Muslim families of the world, I present my congratulations on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha to all the world's Muslims.

The Muslim people of Afghanistan request all the world's Muslims to draw the Pakistani militarists' attention to the unpleasant consequences of aggression against our Muslim country, and to force the Pakistan Government to observe and fully implement the Geneva accords.

Dear compatriots, sisters, brothers. The intensification of missiles attacks on the cities and innocent people have created great sorrow for you, the dear compatriots. I express from the bottom of my heart appreciation and thanks for your patience, tolerance, and endurance. I share your fears and sorrows. We, as honest Muslims, believe fully that the great and forgiving God, may he be glorified, will give us reward for these sorrows.

I state once again firmly that the Republic of Afghanistan will pursue the national reconciliation policy, the continuation of which has been requested by the Grand Assembly held in April despite all the existing pressures, warmongering, and missile attacks on our cities. And we will resist strongly the antinational and antihomeland conspiracies of the extremists and their patrons.

Some Western circles say that the more powerful the Republic of Afghanistan become from a military standpoint, the more it will distance itself from the national reconciliation policy. I want to state clearly that if the Republic of Afghanistan independently and unilaterally achieves great successes on all the war fronts and fully controls the situation, it will still not turn its back on the national reconciliation policy, which is based on ensuring contacts, negotiations, talks, with all those forces which have an interest in peace and in an independent, nonaligned, and united Afghanistan, ensuring their participation in a broad coalition government. The national reconciliation policy conforms to the tenets of the sacred religion of Islam and has deep ties with the national interests and destiny of the Afghans. We hope the opposition understands this fact.

The Republic of Afghanistan considers it its duty to combat conspiracies against the independent and territorial integrity of the country and to reply decisively to the aggressors against the independence and territorial integrity of the homeland and the national interests of Afghans. I have full confidence and believe that the Afghans have become more united, and will be united more than at any other time in confronting foreign aggression, which is being carried out at present by Pakistani militias, Saudi Wahhabi merecenaries and financed and equipped by the Americans; and also by their servants, the extremists.

The jealous and brave nation of Afghanistan will pass through the hard days and will finally secure the destiny of the Afghans and Afghanistan—which has come under foreign attack and aggression—with the participation of all our country's nationalities, tribes, and clans.

Finally, I congratulate all compatriots on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha and wish peace, health, prosperity and well-being to every Afghan family. Success comes from God.

Najibullah Releases 53 Jalalabad Prisoners

LD1307191289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Fifty-three prisoners were released today from Jalalabad city prison under a decree issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Claim Recapture of Samar Kheyl Garrison

BK1307111189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad, July 13 (AFP)—Mujahidin guerrillas Thursday [13 July] recaptured the Samar Kheyl garrison, key to the defense of the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, rebel sources here said.

The garrison fell to Afghan Government troops last week during a major push by the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul to flush out rebels laying siege to nearby Jalalabad.

"We have now pushed the regime troops beyond Seracha," a strategic bridge over a tributary of the Kabul River less than 10 kilometers (six miles) from Jalalabad, the pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said quoting commanders.

The news agency said the attack started Wednesday afternoon and that the advance began after two observer posts fell to the mujahidin.

Jalalabad Airport Reopens to Civilian Aircraft

LD1307184589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] In line with instructions issued by president of the Republic of Afghanistan, esteemed Najibullah, Jalalabad city airport is now operational. The military section of BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reports from Jalalabad that the airport for Nangarhar Province, which was damaged in recent months by extremists' rocket attacks was repaired by party and state organs' personnel and can now be used by civilian aircraft.

Rebels Fire 8 Missiles at Kabul City

LD1307192289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] While our faithful and Muslim compatriots are engaged in celebrating the auspicious 'Id al-Adha, this great festival of all world Muslims, the non-Muslim extremists, ignoring the Armed Forces High Command announcement regarding the observation of a cease-fire during the auspicious days of 'Id, fired eight surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas of Kabul city, thus committing another unforgivable crime.

BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reports that as a result of this rocket attack by the criminal extremists, who oppose the teachings of the sacred religion of Islam and the shari'a of Prophet Muhammad, seven of our compatriots, including children and women, were wounded and material losses were also inflicted. The victims of the incident were transfered to hospital without delay and are under treatment.

Residents Appeal to Government

LD1307084489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 11, BAKHTAR—The people of Afghanistan in their protest messages sent to BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY have appealed to the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the country's Supreme Defence Council to put an end to Pakistan aggression against the Republic of Afghanistan because the rockets are fired under the direct order of Pakistan on the Afghan people.

The Kabul citizens in a protest message addressed to Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul has called on Pakistan military circles to put an end to its aggressive actions against the Republic of Afghanistan. Similarly, the Kabul inhabitants have called on the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Supreme Defence Council to adopt firm measures against Pakistani intruders and to inflict upon them such a blow to forget for ever the idea of invading against the Afghan territory.

A protest message has also been released by the lecturers and students of Kabul University in which they appealed to the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan to use all their available means in rebuffing Pakistan aggression. They, in their protest letter have asked the government to crush the perpetrators of rocket attacks on Kabul City and the country's provinces.

A similar protest letter released by All-Afghanistan Women's Council to Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan's prime minister, asking her why hundreds of rockets are being fired by the extremists with her help. The Afghan women have asked her to put an end to these inhuman acts of extremists which is organised with the direct assistance of her government.

The rallies and meetings ended with protest messages condemning the gross interventions of Pakistan's interventions into the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Further on Residents' Protest

LD1307083289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 12, BAKHTAR—Some Kabul residents went yesterday to the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul and the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) submitting protest notes on launching rockets against the residential areas of Kabul city by the extremists.

While expressing deep indignation and anger on firing of rockets on the residential areas of Kabul City, the notes signed by school students, pioneers, women, university

students, university lecturers, doctors, craftsmen, clergies and scholars and national traders, asked Pakistan, to observe the provisions of the Geneva accords and stop arming and sending the extremists into the territory of Afghanistan.

The notes add that if Pakistan does not refrain from intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, the people of Afghanistan will ask President Najibullah to use every possibilities and means at hand and resort to counter-action so that the Pakistani authorities understand the miseries of war as well.

The notes submitted to the UNGOMAP asking it to fulfill their duties and responsibilities in regard to the Geneva accords compelling Pakistani militarists to refrain from intervening in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The notes also stress if firing of rockets on cities continues the people of Afghanistan may ask the Supreme Defence Council of Afghanistan to resort to counter action so that the Pakistani authorities also realize the difficulties and miseries of war and rockets.

Similarly, different strata of the country, including, scholars, clergymen, personnel of state institutions, workers of productive institutions and craftsmen also strongly condemned today the direct aggression of Pakistani militarists against the pious people of Afghanistan and expressed their support to the statement of the Supreme Defence Council of the country.

Government employees of several ministries in their protest notes issued in connection to the firing of rockets on the cities by the extremists asked the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Supreme Defence Council of the country to adopt counter measures if the extremists and the state of Pakistan do not refrain from their criminal acts such as killing and wounding innocent civilians by launching rockets. The people of Afghanistan also demand the UN secretary general to take serious measures and control such criminal actions of the war-mongers in our country.

BIA on Captured Spies, Pakistan Aggression

LD1307183489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA] announcement: Three Pakistani and Arab spies, engaged in armed activity attached to the extremist groups have been captured with their weapons and other evidence during recent armed clashes with the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces in Konduz and Nangarhar Province.

The spies and saboteurs are: Mukhtar Gul, a Peshawar inhabitant and member of the Pakistani spy organization; (Hesamuddin Mahmud), an inhabitant of Cairo; and (Nasir 'Ali Abu-Mumin), an inhabitant of the [place-name indistinct] village, al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia. With direct and comprehensive cooperation from Pakistan's military intelligence, they illegally entered Afghanistan's territory with the extremist armed groups. They were captured by the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces during armed clashes as they were carrying out subversive activities.

During interrogation, the spies and saboteurs confessed that they received military training in Pakistan and other countries and were infiltrated into Afghanistan through Pakistan's military intelligence and the Wahhabi centers, which are organizing subversive activities against the Republic of Afghanistan in Pakistani territory.

During the recent (?clashes) scores of these spies and saboteurs, trampling on all international norms, have illegally entered our country and, along with espionage activities, have been engaged in armed activities against the people of Afghanistan.

During recent months, the capture of Mohammad Afzal [word indistinct] and Mohammad Sharaf, Pakistan Military Intelligence Service spies; Abdorrazaq Abu-Emam, one Arab Wahhabi, and Antony O'Brien, a U.S. subject is recalled. Also dozens of these spies and saboteurs have been killed during clashes against our country's Armed Forces, among whom the names of Abu Nahal and Abu Nam'u come to mind—recently killed in Helmand Province—and scores of Pakistani and Wahhabi mercenaries in Nangarhar and Qandahar Provinces were eliminated.

From the very beginning both Pakistan, as a signatory of the Geneva accords, and the United States, as a guarantor of the accords, have ignored the accords' articles and have not only sent saboteurs and spies, but have planned attacks on cities including Jalalabad, Qandahar, and Khowst, and the Pakistani militarists have actively implemented these plans. It is obvious that the responsibility for all subversion, missile attacks on cities and villages, and continued war and fratricide in the Republic of Afghanistan rests with Pakistan and the United States.

BIA announces that the Republic of Afghanistan considers the infiltration of spies and saboteurs from the Pakistan territory into the Republic of Afghanistan and the rocket attacks on the cities which are being organized by Pakistan as direct intervention and aggression by that country in the Republic of Afghanistan's internal affairs. Afghanistan, in order to defend itself and rebuff and repel Pakistan's brazen military aggression, will retaliate. In that case, the responsibility for the grave and painful consequences, which undoubtedly are not in the interests of both countries' peoples, will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Rebel Leader Attempts To Recruit Followers

LD1107215289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] A Republic of Afghanistan security source reported to BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section that Gulbuddin, leader of the so-called

Islamic Party of Afghanistan, accompanied by a number of U.S. and Saudi Arabian advisers, recently stole into Afghanistan and visited Maydan and Lowgar Provinces. The main purpose of this visit was to recruit men to attack Jalalabad.

Various reports say that Gulbuddin and his U.S. and Saudi Arabian advisers were confronted with strong resistance from the people in Lowgar and Maydan and even the armed men attached to him disregarded his instructions and refused to go to Jalalabad. Eyewitnesses said that the people and men of the armed opposition groups members in these regions told Gulbuddin that they were not ready to soil their hand with the blood of their compatriot brothers and sisters. It should be mentioned that in the past also, serious reactions have been manifested by the people and men of the opposition groups in these regions of Afghanistan against similar activities by Gulbuddin, which took place with the encouragement of the Americans and Pakistan's military intelligence service.

After the failure of his efforts to gather men for battle in Jalalabad, Gulbuddin issued the order to murder and kill innocent people. In order to accomplish this criminal action, he forced some local commanders belonging to the so-called Islamic Party of Afghanistan and Islamic Unity of Afghanistan, belonging to Wahhabi Sayyaf, to fire rockets at Kabul city. As a result of the rockets fired at Kabul city on 9 and 10 July on the orders of Gulbuddin and his U.S. and Pakistani supporters, 18 inhabitants were killed and 161 others were wounded, including women and children.

This is a momento from the murderer of Afghanistan's people who came to Afghanistan on his foreign master's instructions with six American, Pakistani and Saudi Wahhabi generals and issued the order to kill Muslim people and then returned to Pakistan to prepare a report about this crime against Afganistan's people.

Officials Meet With Tribal Leaders 12 Jul

LD1207123389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 11, BAKHTAR—A big tribal jirgah with the participation of tribal chieftains, people's representatives and elders of Nangarhar Province was held in the hall of the publicity department of the Ministry of Frontier Affairs today. Sulayman La'eq, minister of frontier affairs also took part in it.

The main goal of convening such a session is to strengthen ties between various tribes residing in Nangarhar.

Muftahuddin Safi, deputy-minister of frontier affairs talked on the significance of such sessions in the unity of people and defence of the country.

Then Sulayman La'eq in his brief speech in the session spoke on the importance of such session in solving socio-political problems and drew the attention of the participants to their responsibilities present day situation.

At the meeting a number of tribal chieftains on behalf of others pledged that will foil the plots of Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis in the future too.

Also Muftahuddin Safi [word indistinct] with the tribal elders of nomadic tribes in Kabul today.

He informed them about the covert interference of Pakistani militarists against Afghanistan.

Following, a number of elders on behalf of their people expressed their solidarity with the Armed Forces of the country.

Najibullah's Sends Greetings to Mongolian Leader

LD1207110789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 11, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) and Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the RA have sent messages of congratulations to Ulaanbatar addressed to Jambyn Batmonh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Mongolia and president of the Presidium of People's Great Hural on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of the Mongolian people's revolution on July 8.

The messages while expressing cordial congratulations to the leader of Mongolia as well as people of that country expressed the hope that existing friendly relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Mongolian People's Republic be expanded and consolidated in the future in the interests of the people of the two countries, peace and security in the region and the world as well.

India

AFP Previews Gandhi's Visit to Islamabad

BK1407023489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0156 GMT 14 Jul 89

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, July 14 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is due to arrive here Sunday [16 July] for his second visit in seven months, seen here as a sign of increasing goodwill for his Pakistani counterpart Benazir Bhutto.

The trip, which comes before general elections in India later this year, also follows U.S. President George Bush's reported private advice to Mr. Gandhi "to forge closer relations" with Pakistan's leader and open talks that could lead to reduced tension between the two countries.

The Foreign Ministry said Sunday there was no fixed agenda for the meeting, but sources said the nuclear issue, defense matters and the regional situation, including the Afghan problem, were expected to be the main topics for discussion.

The visit, though the first official trip by an Indian prime minister in 30 years, will be the second time the two leaders have met within a week following a meeting in Paris, where both are present for the bicentennial celebrations of the French Revolution Friday.

Mr. Gandhi, who will be accompanied by his wife Sonia and Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao, is due here after talks in Moscow. He was last here in December for the seven-nation summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) when the two leaders had their first face-to-face talks.

Ms Bhutto and Mr. Gandhi are due to meet five times this year.

After the Paris and Islamabad meetings Ms Bhutto is due to visit the SAARC countries, including India, in August. The two will also meet in September during the the summit of non-aligned countries, and again in October at the Commonwealth's annual conference in Malaysia.

The two countries have fought three wars in less than 40 years and both spend a major part of their annual budgets on military hardware.

Besides territorial disputes over northern Kashmir State, their respective nuclear programmes are another vexing issue affecting relations and attracting international attention, observers said.

Ms Bhutto is expected to propose a start to talks on mutual arms reduction and renew offers of a regional agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the sub-continent, sources said. The talks will improve the atmosphere even if no agreements were signed, and give impetus to bilateral efforts to improve relations, observers here said.

The visit follows a series of attempts by both sides to reduce tension in the 17,000 feet (5,000 metre) Siachen Glacier in Kashmir claimed by both India and Pakistan.

Their respective defence secretaries agreed last month to withdraw troops to the positions they held in 1972 when the two leaders' late parents, Indira Gandhi and Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, signed an agreement after their third war under which both agreed to settle disputes through peaceful dialogue.

Indian and Pakistani military commanders recently met in New Delhi, but were unable to finalise the details of the troop withdrawal. Sources said the two leaders might try to iron out the remaining problems and reach agreement on the issue.

In their December meeting, they signed three agreements including one prohibiting the two sides from attacking each others' nuclear facilities.

Officials here said shortly after the summit meeting that a joint ministerial commission headed by the two countries' respective foreign ministers would begin two days of talks from July 18 to discuss ways of expanding bilateral cooperation.

This will be the third session since the commission was set up in 1983, and its first since 1985. Four subcommissions will meet on July 17 to discuss cooperation in various fields including agriculture, communications, industry, trade, information, health, education, culture and sports, science and technology, and travel and tourism, the officials said.

Officials Condemn Killing of Tamil Leaders

BK1407090889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] In a statement issued in Madras, the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M. Karunanidhi, expressed his shock at the assassinations [of Sri Lankan Tamil leaders]. He said the brutal and inhuman act cannot be pardoned by the democratically minded people. Mr Karunanidhi said the individuals or groups responsible for the dastardly act deserve the highest condemnation.

The general secretary of the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham], Ms Jayalalitha, has expressed her shock at the brutal killings. In a statement in Madras today, she said the murders point out the necessity of the PKF's [Peacekeeping Force] continued presence in the island. She reiterated her party's stand that the full implementation of the India-Sri Lanka agreement is the only way for safeguarding the interest of the Tamil population.

The minister of state for external affairs, Mr K. Natwar Singh, has expressed shock at the killing of the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] leaders. Condemning the killings, Mr Natwar Singh said this tragic act will only complicate the very delicate situation in Sri Lanka. It may be recalled that Mr Amirthalingam has recently said that his life was being threatened by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] following his speech in the Sri Lankan Parliament, strongly criticizing the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Government's call for immediate withdrawal of the PKF. The LTTE threatened to kill Mr Amirthalingam after his speech. Our special correspondent points out that Mr Amirthalingam was the secretary general of the TULF and member of the Sri Lankan Parliament, while Mr Yogeswaran was a former member of Parliament. Mr Amirthalingam had also the longest innings of over 30 years in the political field and served the Tamils' cause.

Gandhi Cited on PRC, Sri Lanka Disputes

BK1307124789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi has said India would not like to see a solution to its border dispute with China affected by events in that country. In his first detailed comments on the recent events in China, published in a French weekly, Mr Gandhi also advocated a nonviolent solution to its problems, saying military options were transient at best and can only buy time.

On the events in China, the prime minister said it is for the Chinese to work out how they want to run their system, and it is not for us to interfere in that.

On Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi ruled out a showdown with Colombo on the issue of the withdrawal of PKF [Peacekeeping Force].

Nepal's Restrictions on Currency Regretted

BK1307011289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0030 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] India has expressed surprise and regret at Nepal placing restrictions on the movement of Indian currency in Nepal. Official sources in New Delhi feel that the new currency regulations would not only create problems for the common people on both sides, but also clearly indicate Nepal's intention to have a full-fledged most favored nation [MFN] regime for India-Nepal trade. Despite the official spokesmen and leaders of Nepal repeatedly making statements, India has not suggested an MFN regime for future trade between the two countries. Official sources said that it would not be logical or fair to blame India for any problems resulting from the Nepalese Government's action.

Gandhi, Rao Hold Talks With Bhutan King 10 Jul

BK1007163389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, called on the visiting Bhutan King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, in New Delhi today and exchanged views on bilateral matters. The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and the foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh, also met the king and held talks.

King Departs New Delhi 12 Jul

BK1207133289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] King Jigme Singye Wangchuck of Bhutan left New Delhi today after a 4-day visit. During his visit the Bhutan king held talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and other leaders.

China's Jiang Meets With Congress-I Leader 6 Jul

BK0707100089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] The Congress-I general secretary, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, met the new Chinese Communist Party general secretary, Mr Jiang Zemin, in Beijing yesterday. Mr Azad is the first foreign visitor to meet Mr Jiang since he became leader of the Communist Party. Mr Azad conveyed his own and Mr Gandhi's felicitations to Mr Jiang on his appointment. Mr Jiang appreciated India's stand of noninterference during the unrest in Beijing.

Paper Assesses Gains From Sino-Soviet Relations

BK1307150089 Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Jun 89 p 4

[Article by Tapan Dan: "The Thaw and Asia-Pacific"]

[Text] Now that the euphoria over the historic Sino-Soviet summit has somewhat died down, a hard look at the main up-shots of this historic event and its significance for the Third World in general and India in particular can be taken. For a rapprochement between the two erstwhile feuding countries may and may not be at the cost of genuine interests of a country like ours, which, too, has had extremely cordial relations with the Soviet Union and a bitter experience with China.

It is noteworthy that both Soviet and Chinese leaders have been prompt in allaying such fears. They have assured that normalisation of Sino-Soviet relations was not spearheaded against any third countries and did not encroach on any other side's interests. What is more important, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev has been even more specific and said that what the USSR has been doing by improving relations with China "will not weaken our relations with India. These steps will never do any damage to India."

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's warm welcome of the Sino-Soviet summit results and the high-level parleys between the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mr I. Rogachev and the Indian leaders immediately after on the issue bear testimony to the hopes entertained on this score.

One can also rightly recall here Mr Gorbachev's profound observation made in New Delhi in November 1986. "The better the relations in the Asian region between all the countries and the better the relations between the USSR and China the better the overall atmosphere in that part of the world," he said. Elaborating further he noted, "If relations in the region as a whole and between the great powers in Asia, which I think primarily are China, India and the Soviet Union, keep improving, a very different situation will emerge.... I think that the tendency I am talking about will gain

momentum, the tendency for normalisation and better relations in Asia, including relations between such countries as China, India and the Soviet Union."

Viewed in the present context, it can be said without any fear of contradiction that Mr Gorbachev was not over-optimistic. In a way, he has proved prophetic. The impact that the Sino-Soviet summit results have already made has brightened the prospects of still closer relations and better understanding of the policy perceptions of the three above-mentioned countries. Steady improvement in Sino-Soviet-Indian relations is already having wholesome repercussions on the developments in Asia and the world as a whole.

Many observers have rightly noted that Sino-Soviet relations developing on the basis of Mr Gorbachev's policy of "new thinking" and Mr Deng's idea of a "new international political order" will facilitate realisation of the main objectives of not only these two countries but also of all those who believe in peace and peaceful coexistence. None can be oblivious of the two countries' emphasis on dialogue rather than on confrontation, relaxation of tension, rejection of hegemonism, discrimination and inequality in inter-state relations, deideologisation of relations between states and development of bilateral ties without detriment to third countries. This is paving the way for refashioning of ties between different states.

But how does this welcome changeabout affect India? New Delhi must find encouragement in the fact that Sino-Soviet border disputes, which seemed more intractable than Sino-Indian, are inching towards a satisfactory solution. And, there is no reason why New Delhi and Beijing cannot draw a proper lesson from the current experience of Sino-Soviet border negotiations in order to resolve their differences.

Significantly, reliable reports from the Indian capital indicate that the Chinese side is very keen to hold the first meeting of the joint working group on the Sino-Indian border dispute in New Delhi soon. As would be recalled, the joint working group whose formation was agreed in principle during Mr Rajiv Gandhi's summit meeting in Beijing last December will be headed by the Indian Foreign Secretary and the Chinese Vice Foreign Minister, and will be invested with the authority to recommend an amicable settlement.

If this development can be attributed to the positive outcome of the Sino-Soviet normalisation of relations, Beijing's advice to Kathmandu to settle the trade problems with New Delhi across the table must be another solid gain which can set an example for others in the region. In other words, if both China and USSR were to use their international prestige and standing for fostering mutually beneficial ties among neighbouring countries in the Asia-Pacific, there will surely be a new turn and awakening in the region.

In the economic sphere, too, Sino-Soviet understanding will have a beneficial effect. Take, for example, the agreement reached between China and USSR on modernisation and setting up of a number of engineering projects in China by the latter. Industry circles in India have already received queries from China on whether our country can supply machinery and equipment for these industries. Besides, both China and India can develop mutually beneficial cooperation for jointly setting up industries in the Soviet Far-East as well as in the free trade and economic zones that are now being set up in the USSR. In fact, China has already been participating in a big way in the industrial and agricultural fields of the Soviet Far-East.

As far as India's foreign policy goals are concerned, Sino-Soviet understanding can go a long way in making India's task easier. Take, for example, India's or rather the NAM's [Nonaligned Movement] goal for a nuclear weapon-free, non-violent world (this is also the objective of the New Delhi Declaration signed by Mr Gorbachev and Mr Rajiv Gandhi). Radical unilateral cuts in nuclear missiles and armed troops and armaments by the USSR have been of far-reaching significance as China has wholeheartedly reciprocated this gesture of Moscow by declaring that Beijing will work in unison with all others in turning Asia into a zone of peace, free from nuclear weapons. Similarly, China's support to the Soviet, NAM and Indian demand for demilitarisation of the Indian Ocean will provide a new fillip to the movement of the littoral states for dismantling the Diego Garcia base and removal of nuclear missiles in the region.

New Delhi has also reasons to be happy with China's forthright call for setting up a broad-based government in Kabul with PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] as a partner. This is a welcome shift in Beijing's position and adds strength to India's and the NAM's stand on the issue. Informed circles also feel that from now onwards Beijing will come out more sharply against outside interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, thus facilitating the implementation of the Geneva Accords by all the signatories and guarantors.

Significantly the joint Sino-Soviet communique does not mention the issue of Afghanistan, which had earlier been a major point of friction between the two countries. Observers believe that the two sides must have ironed out their earlier differences.

As regards Kampuchea, India can draw comfort from the fact that Sino-Soviet summit has definitely brightened the prospects of an early settlement of the problem. India's happiness will not be grudged by anyone as New Delhi was one of the very few countries that carried on behind-the-scene negotiations tirelessly for an amicable settlement and for an early end to the bloodshed in Indochina.

In this background, warmer Sino-Soviet relations should be looked upon by India and all other peace-loving countries of the region as a powerful impulse for concord and amity among the neighbouring countries, differences in their respective priorities not withstanding. And, as a foremost non-aligned and peace-loving country, India cannot but rejoice at the healthy process that has been ushered in by the historic Gorbachev-Deng handshake.

Border Vigil Intensified To Halt Drug Smuggling

BK1207081989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Central agencies have stepped up vigil along the India-Pakistan border to prevent smuggling of narcotics into the country in the wake of the recent Pakistani Government's crackdown on drug traffickers. The BSF [Border Security Force] narcotics control board and customs authorities have identified several areas along the border for intensified patrolling. The authorities have succeeded in seizing more narcotics from the border areas. In the first quarter of this year, about 712 kg of heroin were seized as compared to 686 kg last year.

Heroin, Hashish Seized in Bombay; 5 Arrested

BK1207003589 Hong Kong AFP in English 2102 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 11 (AFP)—Police seized some 25 kilos (55 pounds) of heroin and 30 kilos (66 pounds) of hashish in Bombay Tuesday [11 July], the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Five people, all reportedly Indians, were arrested after the drugs, estimated to be worth 265 million rupees (16 million U.S. dollars) on the international market, were found during a raid on a northwest Bombay flat, PTI said.

Iran

Thousands Head for Khomeyni Shrine, Jam Streets

LD1307081689 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—Millions of Iranians mourning the loss of their leader, Imam Khomeyni, are togather at his shrine at Tehran's Behesht'e Zahra Cemetery Thursday to commemorate the 40th day of his demise.

Special ceremony is scheduled for 06:30 pm (03:00 GMT) Thursday at the shrine which ever since Imam was buried on June 6 has been turned into a sacred ground.

Many spent Wednesday night by the shrine mourning and praying for the Imam while volunteer workmen were finishing work on the shrine while others served the visitors.

Preparations have been made to provide transportation, communication, food and medical facilities to the mourners.

Foreign dignatories and Muslims leaders and personalities from various parts of the world have arrived in Tehran for the occasion.

Ever since the early hours of Thursday thousands of mourners have been heading towards the cemetery despite repeated announcements by the headquarters in charge that the ceremony is scheduled for the evening.

A public holiday has been announced by the government to allow the public to take part in the ceremony and shops and businesses in the capital are closed.

All roads and highways leading to the area are already jammed as human lines several kms long are heading towards the shrine leaving no room for vehicles to pass through.

The traffic police on duty is unable to cope with the massive crowd. The mourners have been requested to use public buses.

Free-of-charge food stands serve breakfast on the way to the shrine.

Loud speakers at the shrine echo recitations from the Holy Koran while mourners weep and beat their chests.

Tehran Radio said in a live report from the cemetery at 11:20 local time (0750 GMT) Thursday said millions had already arrived at the cemetery many bewailing the death of the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Since early morning the radio has been broadcasting reports from the scene interspersed with intermissions, short interviews, solemn music, eulogies, and poetic recitations in tribute to the imam.

The Iranian television, too, is now joining the radio with live broadcasts from its studios in Tehran and by teams at Behesht-e Zahra.

Since 5 am, 400 public buses and 200 from the defense industries have been transporting people from Imam Khoemyni Square to the cemetery.

The staff of the Navy in a caravan of 20 buses left their headquarters in Tehran for the cemetery before noon. Similar caravans of other Army units are reportedly on their way.

The first phase of work on the shrine undertaken by the Construction Jihad and the Islamic Revolution's Guards ministries has been completed.

It is laid on a 17 hectare lot in a 63 hectare area set aside for the purpose. A 200 hectare car park has also been prepared.

The shrine is expected to remain in its present form for the next 3-5 years until a final design is chosen among works of Iranian and foreign architects.

A special committee under the supervision of the imam's son, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, is in charge of the project which will also include an international Islamic university, a museum and a library among other facilities.

A Construction Jihad official involved told IRNA that the work started immediately at the end of the first week of the demise of the imam and ever since 7,000 men have been working non-stop to complete the shrine for the 40th day ceremony.

On work accomplished, the official said among other things the staff have installed 8,500 sq meters of shelter and have leveled 777,000 sq meters of land around the shrine.

Some 2,000 workers are serving the masses while the Red Crescent society has installed 20,000 tents around the shrine for over 100,000 pilgrims coming from other cities.

Various centers have been prepared along Arak, Qom and Esfahan roads to serve the mourners.

Some 110 "salavati" free service stations have been set up at the cemetery and along the roads towards the imam's shrine by various institutions and organizations to serve the mourning masses.

The sites have been set up 500 meters from each other along four axes of the Qom expressway, Tehran-Saveh expressway, Salehabad road and the old Qom-Tehran road.

Each station has four containers distributing food and a Red Crescent tent offering medical services. One tent is also allocated for lost children and property.

Large shaded areas have been erected at each station to enable mourning groups to rest.

Food supplies for ten million has been provided by the Commerce Ministry, the Imam's Relief Committee and other organizations at salavati stations.

Various organizations have issued statements on the occasion.

A large number of people from East and West Azarbayjan some of whom have walked at least 500 kms to Tehran, arrived at the cemetery before noon to pay homage to the late leader.

Many of the mourners have been struck by heat waves under temperatures of at least 40 degrees C, and taken for treatment to mobile medical centers.

People have been requested not [to] bring their children and the elderly with heart and respiratory problems have been recommended to stay home.

But a 70-year old woman from Shiraz, sold her five chickens to be able to afford the cost of travelling 895 kms to Tehran.

Traffic is heavily congested within a radius of seven kms on all roads leading to Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery where the imam's burial site is located.

Motorists frequently stop for free snacks and drinks offered at roadside stands by private citizens.

Organized groups of mourners are leaving mosques in Tehran to the cemetery.

The ceremony officially begins at 6:30 pm [1600 GMT].

Since the early hours until 1 pm, more than 10,000 people have collapsed due to the heat, swarm and grief, who have immediately been transferred to mobile clinics, a medical assistant said. Also, more than 10,000 men and women have either suffered heart problems or injuries, some seriously, and have undergone medical treatment, he added. Fifty mobile clinics, 4 rest houses and a central clinic with more than 1,000 physicians, nurses and medical workers are stationed at the site.

At 13:00, the crowd was so dense that no more people could reach the shrine and a sea of mourners could be seen in a radius of 2.5 kms. Their faces ablaze from the heat, people were beating their heads and chests in a sign of mourning.

The late imam's son, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, arrived at 4:15 pm waving both hands to the cheering crowd who welcomed him by yelling greetings to Prophet Mohammad and his household. He was accompanied by the imam's elder brother, Ayatollah Morteza Pasandideh.

Other officials, including Majlis deputies, foreign guests as well as reporters and photographers have been transported by helicopter to their special stands.

Some domestic and foreign reporters flew over the shrine in Islamic Revolution's Guards [IRGC] helicopters, making reports and films of the ceremonies. Iranian television network began airing the ceremonies directly at 3:30.

The number of mourners struck with heat increases due to the density of the crowd and severe heat which has been registered at 42 C in the shade by the meterological organization. The relief and medical annexes around the shrine are filled with the ill and injured.

IRGC helicopters dropped flowers over the shrine and others leaflets condoling the people on the occasion.

People who arrived at the shrine early in the morning and had paid homage to their late leader are gradually leaving the shrine creating room for new comers.

A large number of Muslims from Lebanon, Syria, Afghanistan, and the southern Persian Gulf states have arrived here to take part in the ceremonies

A 75-year old man who lost two children during the Iraqi war and during the 1979 Islamic revolution said "we are sorry for ourselves for losing our beloved imam."

Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i arrived at 4:40 to take place at the special stand. He was greeted with fist-throwing crowds of tens of thousands packed in the center of the site surrounding the imam's shrine crying "Khamene'i arrived with tears". It is the leader's first public appearance outside his headquarters since his participation at the imam's funeral ceremony on June 6.

Islamic Iran plunged into grief today as millions of turned out in every and each city, town and village to mark the 40th day of the demise of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni. People in organized ranks rallied streets, beating their chest and heads to mark the event. Mourners held gatherings at mosques to listen to speeches on the imam's legacy.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi also arrived soon after Ayatollah Khamene'i.

The mourners at Behesht-e Zahra periodically bursted into cries of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" and "death to Al Sa'ud".

Noticeable foreign guests were vice chairman of Lebanon's Supreme Shi'a Assembly Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, Lebanese Shi'a leader Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, a number of Palestinian leaders and several foreign members of parliament. Head of Lebanon's Amal movement Nabih Birri and several Afghan mujahidin leaders also arrived at the special stand.

Meanwhile, dozens of pigeons were released over the central area of the mourning crowd. At several points above the crowd powerful hoses poured water on the heat-stricken people.

Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived at the special stand 17:05 hours with the people welcoming him with shouts of "Hashemi, Hashemi, you are our president: and "Hashemi came with tearful eyes."

Many government officials including ministers and Majlis deputies are among the mourning masses.

Parts of the late imam's message calling people to get united were broadcast on loudspeakers.

A large number of female mourners trying to reach the shrine were hurt amidst the dense crowd.

Mourners slowly started dispersing from the inner courtyard of the shrine at 18:00 following the end of a speech by Hoj. Ahmad Khomeyni. The bereaved son thanked the nation for the devotion shown for the founder of the Islamic Republic, and officially declared the end of the 40 day mourning period.

But the crowd never seemed to ebb, with more people streaming into the courtyard, apparently to catch a glimpse of the tomb of their beloved leader, and if possible to feel with their fingers the walls of the mausoleum where the great Ruhollah rests in peace.

With dusk approaching, the crowd still remained for the evening prayer, after which the special Friday eve 'dua kumayl'—one of the most moving supplication of the Imam 'Ali (PBUH) [peace be upon him]—will be recited at the grave of the venerable Seyyed (descendant of the prophet—PBUH) who revived genuine Islam.

Khamene'i Address 'Foreign Dignitaries'

LD1307115789 Tehran IRNA in English 1147 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i today said to a group of visiting foreign dignitaries that the international imperialism has continuously tried to pit Muslims against each other by inciting nationalistic fervor among them. He said the afflictions of the Muslim nations is not incidental but is rather the consequence of conspiracies against them to their enemies.

He said the Muslim ummah takes pride in returning to fundamental values of their faith, adding "By exporting revolution we mean to spread a divine culture throughout the world which is our responsibility and in fulfillment of which task we take pride."

The leader of the Islamic Republic bitterly criticized the US Government and Western intelligence agencies for creating insecurity and disturbances against revolutionary and popular governments.

"The hands of the US President and of his reactionary and mercenary agents are stained with the blood of the passengers of Iran's civilian airliner, as well as hundreds

of Iranian pilgrims in the secure house of Allah (in July 1987), and the oppressed Palestinians and tyrannised people of Lebanon." He said those who attacked innocent people and civilians in remote corners of the world were terrorists.

He said the Iranian nation learning from the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, is steadily becoming stronger and feels more resolute without feeling weak in their encounter with the oppressive world powers.

The leader of the Islamic Republic warned Muslim nations against falling prey to the complex propaganda devices of the enemies of Muslims calling on them to "march concertedly toward the lofty goals of Islam without respect to differences in language and race."

Ayatollah Khamene'i's audience included Muslim guests, religious personalities and officials from China, Lebanon, Syria, Pakistan India, Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, Iraq (resident in Syria), England, Guinea, Kenya, the United States, France, Ethiopia, Canada along with a group of visiting Iranians.

Further on Speech

LD1307123989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Speech by Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, at 13 July meeting in Tehran with foreign guests attending the 40th day of mourning for Ayatollah Khomeyni—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

A principal point in the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the great movement which the dear imam brought into existence is the attention which the great Islamic ummah receives, as well as the deep and strong bond which exists among the Muslims of the world—a bond which exists despite geographical distances and radical and language diversities. Perhaps, in the world of Islam, one of the few most important issues which merits the attention of all Muslims of the world is that very issue.

Since the beginning of the entry of colonialism to the eastern and Islamic countries, one of the objectives was to divide Muslims. A variety of ways were tried in an effort to bring about discord among Muslim brothers in the Islamic lands. These includes fanning nationalist feelings and motives as well as creating sectarian differences or deepening them, and so on.

No doubt the role of the corrupt governments, those who were stooges of colonialism, was a major and unique one in bringing about divisions. Today, we [Muslims] make up a 1-billion or so population situated in strategically sensitive parts of the world as well as in parts of the world where the main riches exist.

Meanwhile, the Muslims of the world in most of the countries, whether living as minorities or whether forming the majority of the population, live under adverse social, political, and economic conditions. Yet, this situation exists while Islam and the Koran urge their followers toward all sorts of human perfections—sciences, moral values, social justice, greatness, unity, resistence against impositions, and so on. These are instructions which, if adhered to by any nation, should prevent a situation like that of the world Muslims today. [passage omitted]

From the very first day of the Islamic uprising in Iran under the leadership of the great imam, it chose as one of its most basic articles of faith the unity of Muslims throughout the world, to be followed by cutting off the hands of the tyranical and aggressor powers from the affairs of the Muslims. That still remains the message of our revolution.

The Zionist media drum up unfounded allegations attributing fundamentalism to us; yet, we consider fundamentalism—if that means a return to the fundamentals and principles of Islam—to be one of the greatest sources of our pride. [passage omitted]

The Zionist mass media and the colonial systems of the world accuse the Islamic Republic of exporting the revolution. What is meant by exporting the revolution? If by exporting the revolution one means to export explosives and create sensation and chaos among other nations and countries, this accusation against the Islamic Republic is completely wrong. It is the United States and the destructive espionage systems of the arrogant regimes, including the United States, which export trouble and corruption. It is they who carry chaos, discomfort, and insecurity among other nations. It is they who unjustly interfere in the affairs of nations, their life and internal affairs. It is they who, through their agents and hirelings, take action against the revolutionary and popular governments and create trouble and misery. It is they who attack the innocent. Examples of this can be found everywhere in the world; the world nations knew these examples.

The hands of American statesmen are smeared with blood—smeared with the blood of the innocent, the civilians, the blood of the passengers of the Iranian airliner, the blood of more than 400 Iranian pilgrims 2 years ago in the divine sanctuary, most of whom were women and war disabled; the blood of the oppressed Palestinians, who are routed and crushed in their own homes by the hand of the agent of global arrogance and Zionism; the blood of the people of Lebanon, who are under constant pressure of the enemies, that is, the U.S. stooges and hirelings—whether the Zionists or the Phalangists. The hands of the United States, the U.S. statesmen, the U.S. President and their agents and hirelings, the reactionaries who exist, unfortunately, in Islamic

countries; the hands of all of them are smeared with the blood of these innocent people. They are the terrorists. The Islamic Republic is innocent of such accusations.

If, however, by exporting the revolution they mean promoting the Koranic and humane culture of Islam then they are right; we are proud of this. We deem it our duty to promote with a loud voice, as far as our voice reaches and as far as we can, the Islamic teachings, Islamic values, and Islamic instructions which are the essence of salvation of the nations, the oppressed, and the meek. We feel that we would be guilty if we were to neglect this duty. Even if we were to take no steps to spread Islamic values and instructions, the nature of these instructions will spread them automatically throughout the world. Like fresh spring weather, like the perfume of spring flowers, the meaning of the revolution and the perfume of Islamic instructions will spread all over the world, whether the enemies like it or not.

The Muslims of the world should be aware that the arrogant and noisy media intend to prevent them speaking about their right and appropriate feelings and instructions. For years the deviant Western culture has been destroying and polluting the Islamic countries without objection or hindrance.

Unfortunately, corrupt and dependent governments could not create that strong barrier against the cultural and political conspiracies of the enemy as is expected of a competent government. So the heads of the Western countries, with their political expansionism and their economic plundering, began to expand the corrupt, disgraceful, and weakening Western culture—and no one even objected to them.

Today the Islamic world is awake. Today is the day that the Muslims all over the world feel glorious and proud. The days when a Muslim anywhere in the world was ashamed of being a Muslim are over. Today Muslims are proud of being Muslims. This is due to the power and the glory of the revolution which has taken place in this sensitive part of the world by the able hands of our great and excellent imam, and with the astonishing self-sacrifice and endeavor of the great nation of Iran. It has puzzled the world. For 10 years the Islamic Republic has stood bravely against the various conspiracies of the arrogance. It has defended Islam powerfully and also the sovereignty and the firmness of the Islamic Republic. It has diverted the blows of the enemy against the enemy itself. The arrogant governments think that by imposing the 8-year war on us, by economic sanctions and propaganda, by rumor-mongering and accusations worldwide, they can strike blows against us. They are not aware that it is Islam and the awakening of the Muslims which is shaking their thrones of power. With every day that passes the mighty waves of the Islamic awakening will ever more shake the thrones of the world's idols. [chanting by crowd]

Our Muslim brothers the world over should be aware that the Iranian nation—through reliance on God and on the valuable heritage from the great and lost imam's guidelines, through the leaders and the lessons, and through the valuable experience that the nation has gained during the 10 years since the victory of the revolution—is today, more than any other period since the revolution's victory, more vigilant, more daring, more experienced, and more enthusiastic in the face of arrrogance and world domination. We in no way whatsoever feel weak in the face of arrogance conspiracies. Deep down we feel powerful, and this is natural. Real power belongs to us because we rely on God. [crowd chanting] We are aware that reliance on God is an inexhaustible resource.

We, the officials of the Islamic Republic, rely on this great, powerful, sincere, and selfless nation. This again is the result of God's blessing and kindness. The Iranian nation has fully understood that Islam is what has mobilized the enemies against it, as the onslaught of the enemy on our nation and country is due to Islam. [passage omitted]

In our view, the future is very bright and hopeful. The way that the imam began and which he introduced to us will be, God willing, followed by us until the attainment of our final objectives. Muslims all over the world should consolidate their ties with their brothers in the Islamic Republic. The hearts of the people of the great Islamic ummah should come closer to one another every day. The excuses for dispute and discord, imposed by our enemies on the Islamic nations and the great Islamic ummah, must not be allowed to come to fruition amid the vigilant mood of Muslims today.

Despite the great geographical size of the area, and despite differences in languages and races, Muslims should all try to be in harmony in thought, expression, and actions, all taking steps toward the great Islamic objectives. [passage omitted]

Syrian Deputy Prime Minister Arrives

JN1307052689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran—Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, accompanied by Yasin Rajjuh, minister of state for cabinet affairs, this evening arrived in Tehran to attend the 40th day memorial ceremony for Imam Khomeyni, which will be held tomorrow.

Dr Yasin was received at Tehran International Airport by Dr Mohammad Javad Iravani, Iranian minister of economy and finance; a number of senior Economy Ministry officials; and Ahmad Zaynu, Syrian charge d'affairs in Tehran, and embassy staff.

Leaders Attend Last Day of Khomeyni Mourning

LD1307155989 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—The son of the late leader of the Islamic Revolution condemned the bomb blasts in the Islamic world's holiest city and called on Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] to identify the culprits.

"We codemn the bomb explosion in Mecca and we want them to identify those involved," said Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni.

Khomeyni was addressing a massive crowd at the burial site of the late imam Thursday commemorating the 40 days since his death.

In an apparent reference to the Saudi policy preventing Iranians from performing the hajj ceremony, Khomeyni said the Islamic Republic should stand firm in the face of "plots in the region against us."

At least one pilgrim was killed and several injured when two bombs went off near Mecca's forbidden mosque Monday night.

Recalling the late imam's view on the hajj, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni said when more than 400 pilgrims were martyred during the hajj in 1987 in Mecca, the imam became very distressed.

"The imam said 'I have a lot of patience but I have lost my strength because the haram (Mecca) has been desecrated'," Khomeyni quoted his late father.

The leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, and other senior officials have directly and indirectly blamed the saudi regime for the blasts which they said were aimed at justifying a police state in Mecca and stopping anti-superpower rallies by pilgrims.

Khomeyni made no direct reference to the Saudis.

He also called on people to actively participate in the July 28 presidential elections or else Iran's enemies would claim that a gap had developed (?between the) leaders and the people.

"Your every vote will be a hard slap in the face of your enemies," he said.

Earlier the people yelled "Hashemi, Hashemi, our president" when they saw the clear front runner in the elections, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani taking his place at the official stand.

In acordance with tradition, the imam's son, as the representative of the Khomeyni family called on people to end the mourning period for the death of the founder of the Islamic Republic.

He said some aspects of normal life had been disrupted during the 40-day period and thanked the people throughout the country for expressing deep sorrow for the loss of the imam.

Every day north Tehran's Jamaran district where the late imam resided for most of the ten years since his return from exile in 1979 has been jammed with buses and people arriving from all parts of the country to condole the Khomeyni family.

"Today we have to join hands and stand against internal and external enemies of the revolution and against arrogant (world powers) and not allow anyone to harm this revolution," Khomeyni stressed.

He said if the people did not preserve their unity the officials who were not dependent on any internal or external base other than the people, would lose support.

"Their defeat is your defeat, the defeat of your state and the defeat of your religion," he said.

Ayatollah Khamene'i attended the ceremony in his first public appearance outside his headquarters since the June 6 burial ceremony for the imam.

Speaker Rafsanjani, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, and many other officials were also present as well as foreign guests from many countries.

Millions flocked to Behesht-e Zahra cemetery with tens of thousands packing the center of an area surrounding the imam's temporary shrine, forming groups of dozens who cried religious slogans and beat on their chests and heads in mourning.

At least 30,000 were reported to have been treated by mobile medical units in the area. Some had serious injuries, some from being crushed in the tight gathering.

But most were overwhelmed under the scaorching 42C heat although people had been told to bring umbrellas along, keep children and the elderly at home.

There have been no reported deaths.

Ahmad Khomeyni Calls for Muslim Unity

LD0507091689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Excerpts] A large group of bereaved people from various towns and villages in the country went to Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran [Khomeyni's residence] today and held a mourning ceremony to offer condolences to Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hai Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni on the great tragedy of the demise of the great leader of the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni thanked the mourners and offered condolences in return. He stressed the need to establish unity among world Muslims to realize the objectives of the great leader of the Islamic revolution. He said: The cohesive presence of the Hezbollahi ummah in the funeral ceremony of his holiness the imam, may God sanctify his soul, and the unprecedented mourning ceremonies held in our country and in other Islamic lands indicates that the world of Islam will continue the line of the great leader of the Islamic revolution until tyranny is eliminated.

In another part of his remarks, while paying tribute to those who were martyred by the Saudi policy in the course of their attack on pilgrims 3 years ago, he said: The United States and its agents should realize that the world Muslims, by receiving inspiration from the Islamic revolution, and by continuing the imam's line through their struggle, will recover their rights from the arrogant world. In conclusion of the ceremony, an anthem was sang by the Air Force chorus.

Moscow Radio Commentary on Khomeyni Cited

LD1407100489 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA—Muslims throughout the world on Thursday marked the end of the traditional 40 days of mourning for the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

As millions of Iranians flocked to the imam's golden-domed shrine in Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery, to pay homage to the man who founded the first ever Islamic republic, other Muslims across the globe yesterday mourned the loss of the great Ruhollah, who ushered in an Islamic revival and instilled hope in the hearts of world's oppressed.

In Lebanon, Pakistan, India, Soviet Azerbaijan, Syria, Kuwait, UAE [United Arab Emirates], Uganda, Kenya, Bangladesh, Libya and several other countries, the day saw groups of mourners rallying on streets and beating their chests in a mass outpouring of grief for the leader whose very name sents a shiver down the spine of world arrogance.

Reports are yet to come of mourning rallies from the Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] especially from the eastern oil rich coast of the Arabian Peninsula where Imam Khomeyni was greatly loved by the oppressed Arab masses.

Despite the official ban imposed by the ruling Wahhabis, seventy thousand mourners had turned out on the streets of Qatif and al-Ahsa days after the imam's death, braving arrests and subsequent torture from the Saudi forces.

In related news from Iraq, Ba'thist forces went on maximum alert especially in the holy cities to prevent any public outburst of mourning for the leader who always cherished their liberation.

Reportedly T.V. antennas in Iraqi border towns were directed towards Islamic Iran to catch the glimpses of the 40th day ceremony for their beloved imam.

Imam Khomeyni left the mortal world on July 3, following a surgery to stop internal bleeding. He was laid to rest on June 6 amid wailing cries of over 10 million mourners who attended the funeral service.

It was not Muslims alone who mourned the great imam. In Tehran, the Sikh community held a special ceremony at their temple in memory of the late leader of the Islamic revolution.

While in the Soviet Union, Radio Moscow in its Persian language programme last night, broadcast a commentary on Imam Khomeyni's political life and his personality.

The radio said that Imam Khomeyni as the leader of a popular revolution had played a key role in Iran's history, and in putting an end to domination of the West and the U.S. over the country.

It also lauded Imam Khomeyni's initiative in normalizing Tehran-Moscow ties, saying the imam's message to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev laid the foundation of reviving mutual cooperation in various fields.

In his historic message on January 4, the imam had hailed Gorbachev's bold reforms, and invited him to study the posibility of Islam as a healthy substitute for the decadent Marxist system.

Pakistani Minister Received by Velayati

LD1307090489 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—Pakistan's commerce, planning and development minister Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat here to attend the 40th day ceremonies marking the death of Imam Khomeyni, met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Wednesday [12 July].

He expressed the condolence of the people and government of Pakistan to the government and people of Iran. He said the people of Pakistan highly respected the imam and expressed hope that they would follow the course set by him.

The two also reflected on Iran-Pakistan cooperation in various areas and stressed the need for maintaining high-level talks for ensuring the right to self-determination of the Afghan people. Hayat is heading a delegation to Tehran.

Meets With Musavi

LD1307120989 Tehran IRNA in English 1150 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—Iran and Pakistan should try to expand ties with regards to reciprocal affection between the two nations, said Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Thursday.

Musavi made the remark in a meeting with visiting Pakistani Minister for Commerce, Local Government and Rural Development Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat. Hayat is currently here heading a 40-man delegation to take part in ceremonies marking the end of 40 days of mourning for the death of Imam Khomeyni.

"Imam Khomeyni wished world Muslims to become united and form a unified power against their enemies. He regarded success of Muslim nations in their unity," said the prime minister. Hayat said imam's demise was not only a great loss for the Iranian nation but also for the Muslim nation of Pakistan and all Islamic nations. Undoubtedly, Muslims would follow the imam's path and message, he said.

A large number of Pakistani Muslims have come here to take part in the 40th day ceremonies, he said. Pakistani people regard Iran as a holy land and feel a special closeness with the Iranian nation, he stressed.

Pakistan's Yaqub Khan Arrives for Talks 2 Jul

LD0207053989 Tehran IRNA in English 0529 GMT 2 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived here Sunday on a one-day visit and was greeted at the airport by his Iranian counterpart Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Yaqub Khan said the trip was taking place at the invitation of Velayati and that he was to discuss various issues including Afghanistan.

Also the results of the recent trip to Moscow by Majlis Speker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani will be reviewed, he added. Yaqub Khan said Tehran-Moscow cooperation has contributed to peace and stability in the region.

Velayati paid a one-day visit to Islamabad last month before accompanying Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Moscow. His talks in Islamabad were mainly centered on Afghanistan.

The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Sunday quoted informed sources as saying that following Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow, efforts were underway "to find out a solution to the Afghanistan issue."

"Iran wants a common strategy by the three concerned contries—Iran, Pakistan and the Soviet Union—be planned for the solution of the Afghanistan issue," the paper quoted an unnamed source.

Meanwhile the TEHRAN TIMES reported that Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had postponed her planned July 4 visit to Tehran until after the July 28 presidential election.

Musavi Meets Pakistani Foreign Minister 2 Jul

LD0207125189 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 2 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan held negotiations here with Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi on bilateral relations, the Afghanistan issue and ties with the Soviet Union.

The Pakistani official arrived here this morning for a one-day visit.

During the meeting, he informed Musavi of his country's official stand vis-a-vis the Afghanistan issue and the Majlis speaker's recent visit to the Soviet Union and expressed satisfaction with its positive effects in solving the regional problems.

On Afghanistan issue, Yaqub Khan stressed that a decisive solution to the issue would be possible through close cooperation among the countries which have common borders with Afghanistan as well as non-interference of foreign states (in Afghanistan's affairs). He also expressed hope that the recent developments (in the region) would help reach closer to the final solution.

The Pakistani foreign minister once again conveyed condolences of his people and government on the passing away of Imam Khomeyni.

Appreciating Islamabad's sympathy, Musavi noted that it indicates the existence of deep bonds between the two Muslim nations.

The significance of bilateral relations was also noted by the prime minister who underlined the need for cooperation among Iran, Pakistan and the Soviet Union for a quick solution to the Afghanistan issue.

The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who had conducted negotiations with his Pakistani counterpart earlier in the day.

Air Transport Pact Signed With Pakistan, Turkey

LD0707100689 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—Iran, Pakistan and Turkey have signed agreements on air transport, announced Iran Air Managing director Muhammad Reza Majidi.

The agreements concluded within the framework of the tri-partite Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) includes cooperation in passenger and cargo transport, technical cooperation, and training of flight crew and preparation of halal food for passengers.

The heads of the domestic airlines of the three countries concluded the agreements after three days of talks in Tehran last week.

The daily KAYHAN also quoted Majidi that efforts had been made through the foreign Ministry, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) as well as the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to make Iraq return an Iran air plane hijacked in Baghdad in 1984.

"Since the Iraqi regime does not respect international laws these measures have so far born no result," added the Iran Air director.

Majidi also called on the United States to pay compensation to Iran Air for downing its Airbus A-300 over the Persian Gulf last year, as well as to the families of the 290 victims.

He said Washington had recently announced that it was willing to pay compensation directly to relatives of the victims. But he added: "This is not acceptable to us and the U.S. in addition to the compensation must pay for the downed plane."

New Outposts Opened on Turkish Border
LD0607091589 Tehran IRNA in English 0837 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., July 6, IRNA—Two outposts and seven surveying posts have been inaugurated in the Iran-Turkey border heights of Sanji and Borshkharan near Salmas, a Gendarmerie official said. This brings to 24 the number of outposts along the Iran-Turkey border and to 202 the number of surveying posts in this northwestern province.

The new outposts will prevent the traffic of counter-revolutionaries and smugglers, said Deputy Gendarmerie Commander Brig. Gen. 'Ali Islami. Over 40 kms of roads have been constructed to connect the outposts with various centers in the region, he said.

The government has allocated some rials 10 billion (dlrs 135 mn) to construct roads, outposts and other facilities along border areas during the current year (ends March 20, 1990).

A road is being built all along the eastern border from Sarakhs, in Khorasan Province some 1,800 kms south to Guater port in Sistan-Baluchestan Province, said Gen. Islami.

Protocol With Turkey on Border Crossings, Water
TA1007074189 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2000 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] The Turkish-Iranian Border Commission meetings have ended in Orumiyeh. A protocol comprised of six articles was signed at the end of the talks. ANATOLIA AGENCY reports that according to the protocol, the border crossings will be modernized and deserters will be extradited. The protocol also calls for talks between the two countries on the use of [word indistinct] waters at the border. The commission also decided to meet in Turkey next year.

The Turkish and Iranian delegations at the talks were headed respectively by Ambassador Zeki Celik, the Foreign Ministry director general for consular affairs, and by Zayn al-'Abidin Ata'i, the governor of West Azarbayjan.

Velayati Receives Afghan Rebel Leader
LD1007215189 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and head of Jamiat-e Eslami Afghanistan Burhanuddin Rabbani discussed the Afghan issues here today.

"Iranian support for the Muslim Afghan nation, and its stress on the Islamic aspect of Afghanistan's issue is very vital," Rabbani said in the meeting.

He said Afghan mujahidin seek the total annihilation of the Marxist regime, and are against its participation in all future affairs of Afghanistan.

Velayati in reply reiterated the principled positions of the Islamic Republic towards Afghanistan, and said Iran continues to support the right of the Afghan people for determining their own fate.

Velayati Receives Lebanese Shaykh 12 Jul
LD1307224189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Shaykh 'Adib Haydar, accompanied by a delegation of crusaders [mujahidin] from the Believers' Lebanese Resistance who have come to Tehran to participate in the cermonies marking the 40th day of Imam Khomeyni's demise—may his noble soul be sanctified, in a meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati on Wednesday, expressed his condolences on the demise of the great leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Also at this meeting, the crusaders from the Believers' Lebanese Resistance informed our country's minister of foreign affairs about the latest developments in Lebanon.

In addition, Burhannudin Rabbani, the leader of the Islamic Society of Afghanistan, who has come to Tehran to participate in the same ceremonies held a second round of talks with Velayati on Wednesday.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Supports Palestine Struggle

LD1207171289 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today reiterated the Islamic Republic's backing for anti-Zionist struggles of the Palestinian people.

The speaker voiced the support in separate meetings with leader of revolutionary faction of al-Fatah Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and leader of Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) Ahmad Jibril.

The two Palestinian leaders are here to participate in the 40th day mourning ceremonies for the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni (may God bless him).

Abu Musa and Ahmad Jibril declared their allegiance to the new leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

IRNA: Saudi Arabian Police Engineered Blasts

LD1207162789 Tehran IRNA in English 1556 GMT 12 Jul 89

["World Pointing to Saudis for Bomb Blast in Mecca"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—The bomb blasts in Mecca Monday which martyred a pilgrim from Pakistan and wounded many others has roused comments in and outside the Arabian Peninsula on who may have been behind the new crime at the inviolable place.

The ruling Saudi regime having scrupulously checked the baggage of each arriving 'guest of God' and having boastfully and repeatedly assured pilgrims of utmost security measures for a peaceful hajj, now seems to have very little for atrributing the incident to supporters of Iran or the Islamic revolution or any other foreign enemy.

The Iranians having been denied entry visa for a second year by the Wahhabis and the security check at all ports of entry having been at its extreme, the bomb blasts in Mecca seems to point not to arriving pilgrims but to the Saudis themselves—those desert brigands of Jewish origin who have continued to desecrate the sanctity of the Haramayn Sharifayn since their seazure in the 1930s.

However the point is, can you accuse someone of having smuggled explosives into your domain while you applied the most advanced of all sophisticated electronic checks on each and every arriving pilgrim?

To ask who did it would be nonesensical without first realizing that not one single Iranian pilgrim was granted entry visa for hajj this year and that during security checks at all ports of entry the Saudi immigration police had even seized such simple personal effects as nail-clippers from pilgrims for fear of their being used as 'offensive' weapons.

As a doctor eliminates the 'impossibilities' in their order to arrive at a right diagnosis, so too, any observer can follow the same simple principles for identifying the elements behind the bomb blasts in Mecca Monday.

Fortunately for the observer in this case, the hypothetical possibilities which he eliminates by counter-evidence in the process of that diagnosis are not too many, that is: 1. The Iranians were not in Mecca on or before Monday, and 2. No explosives could have possibly been smuggled into the Hijaz by any arriving pilgrim on the previous days.

Despite that, however, the incompetent Saudis are desparately using every propaganda device to suggest that the Iranians were behind the bomb blast in Mecca Monday, resorting to allegations and accusations even less plausible than those which they offerred for justifying their killing of 400 guests of God on July 31, 1987, near the sacred Ka'bah where the shedding of even an animal's blood is divinely prohibited.

Only one hour before the bomb blasts in Mecca, the Free Lebanon Radio of the Saudi Allies, the Christian militia, said that Lebanon's intelligence sources had become informed about terrorist schemes for disrupting the on-going Muslim ritual in Mecca.

The upstart Saudi clan, the self-styled custodians of the sacred sanctuaries in Mecca and al-Madinah, seem to be worrying more about what may befall themselves and the ARAMCO, than what happens to Ka'bah and Muslims on pilgrimage, although outwardly they feign other attitudes. They are the very people who are overtly more concerned about laying out the peripheries of the Ka'bah according to the plans of American architects than they are about the foundations of their own faith.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has enough argument to offer and more than enough evidence to adduce for proving that it does not recognize terrorist activities as a wise strategy for struggle with its damned foes, and for proving that the Saudi shurtahs (police officers) were the sole engineers of the bomb blast.

Iran's Muslim people, no less than Muslims in other parts of the world, maintain that the security of the holy shrines in Mecca in al-Madinah should be maintained by Muslims themselves, and that because of their un-Islamic beliefs and practices and their dark criminal record, the Saudis do not even qualify as true pilgrims let alone as custodain of the holy shrines.

Do world Muslims need Saudi visas for fulfilling divinely-decreed obligations? Especially when considers that the Saudi clan is neither competent enough nor has the religious credentials to back its claim.

Did not these Zionist off-shoots level to the ground the tombs of the prophet's (PBUH) [peace be upon him] venerated family members in the (Jannat ol-Baqi) cemetery, and the prophet's (PBUH) illustrious uncle, Hamza the martyr, as well as so many religious sites in the Islamic heartland?

For how long the planet's billion-plus Muslims tolerate the ignominy, of the haramayn sharifayn [two holy mosques] being under US-Zionist yoke?

The ummah asserts that the sanctity of the holy shrines in the hijaz should be protected, but the Wahabis rather than respecting the principled expectations of world Muslims have been resorting to suppressive and brutish devices against the very dictates of Islam.

For its own part, the Islamic Republic has officially condemned the bomb blasts in Mecca on Monday, and demands that the Saudi regime identify without trying to invent comic stories for fooling only a handful of simple folks.

Saudi Scholar: Mecca Blasts U.S.-Saudi Plot

LD1307201189 Tehran IRNA in English 1854 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—An alim [theological scholar] from the Hijaz has disclosed today that the Monday night's blasts in Mecca was a "joint US-Saudi plot to misrepresent real Islam."

"The regime in Riyadh committed the crime to justify its disgraceful act of barring Iranian pilgrims from the hajj," the combatant figure told IRNA in Damascus.

The alim, a member of the movement for the liberation of the Arabian Peninsula, requested anonymity.

The blast which martyred a Pakistani pigrim, proves the abject incompetency of the al-Sa'ud clan which also lacks religious credentials to administer the Haramain-Sharifain, said the Hijazi.

He was sure that the Wahhabis who seized the Hijaz in the 1930s were behind the fresh crime at the most inviolable of places in Islam.

"No Muslim whatever the circumstances will commit such a treachery," he added.

World Muslims, Sunnis and Shi'a alike, have stepped up their calls for wresting control of Mecca and Medina from the Wahhabis who trace their origin from Jewish tribes, following the Saudi massacre of 400-plus pilgrims near the sacred Ka'bah on July 31, 1987.

Hajj is incumbent once in a lifetime for every adult Muslim provided he or she can afford the journey, and moreover according to Islamic laws no government has the right to interfere in this divinely-decreed obligation.

But in open violation of Islamic laws the Saudis fixed quotas at the Amman summit meet of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in 1988, reducing Iran's quota from over 150,000 annually to a third.

The move has been condemned worldwide, and the Hijazi alim called for a committee composed of representatives from several impartial Islamic countries to investigate the recent blast.

In related news from India, religious figures and Islamic bodies in Hyderabad, issued statements today condemning the Mecca bomb blast and termed it the work of US-Zionist lackeys.

Maulana Ghous Khamushi, head of the Islamic Research Center of the city, said the crime was aimed at preventing pilgrims from performing the great annual politico-religious hajj.

He said the holy shrines belonged to all Muslims, and the incident revived the memory of the Mecca massacre and the only way to prevent repetition of such horrid crimes was that the holy shrines should be administered by an international Islamic committee.

Iravani Denies Report on Cost of USSR Pact

NC0707110389 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Jul 89 pp 1, 7

[Text] Tehran—Iran's reconstruction agreement with the Soviet Union will cost Tehran between 7 to 8 billion dolars, Finance Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani told the TEHRAN TIMES.

The minister was commenting on a REUTER report which 'wrongly' quoted Iravani as saying that the Irano-Soviet agreement will cost "about 15 billion dollars."

REUTERS' story yesterday was picked up from THE WASHINGTON POST whose correspondent interviewed Iravani in Tehran.

"No, THE WASHINGTON POST correspondent either misunderstood me or wrongly presented my versions," Iravani told the TEHRAN TIMES. He said, "What I mean was that there are certain projects which will cost 7 to 8 billion dolalrs in hard currency and the same amount is required in rials for the materials, to be used through domestic sources, for which rials will be used.

Without giving details REUTER carried the story of the Washington post quoting Iravani as saying "Iran's contribution in manpower, equipnent and energy would bring the cost to something like 15 billion dollars or higher."

Iravani also denied another part of the report in which he was quoted as saying that Iran would continue to pursue Western technology when it is superior to that offered by Moscow.

The Iranian minister said that in his interview with THE WASHINGTON POST "I told the reporter that the Soviet Union is one of the four countries which are on the top in the fields of energy, dam construction and matereology." [as published]

"They are better than the West and this being so a comparison with the West is of no use. And I did not mean at all what THE WASHINGTON POST has attributed to me," he said.

*** Rafsanjani's Moscow Trip Said Not Successful**
46400093 London KEYHAN in Persian
29 Jun 89 pp 1,3

[Text] Hashemi Rafsanjani and his delegation returned to Tehran, from the Soviet Union, Friday, after achieving none of the major economic, political and military objectives of their trip to Moscow.

Among the accords and agreements signed during Rafsanjani's stay in Moscow, there was not the slightest reference to the annual sale of three billion cubic meters of natural gas to the Soviet Union or the transfer of Iran's natural gas over Soviet soil to Europe, although the Islamic government had counted heavily economically on concluding a agreement to sell natural gas and transfer it to Europe and had considered the signing of this agreement a certainty.

With the failure of signing the agreement to sell natural gas and transfer it to Europe, the matter of selling an annual one billion cubic meters of natural gas to Bulgaria, over which there has been much propaganda, has now become an impractical non-issue.

Neither did Hashemi Rafsanjani succeed, on this trip, to obtain the military support of the Soviet government in a way that would meet the estimated needs of the Iranian army's aggressive operations. Under political pressure on the one hand from the United States and on the other hand due to the considerations it must observe in its relationship with Iraq and the other Arab nations of the region, the government of the Soviet Union declined to accept the Islamic Republic's request to buy MIG-29 fighter aircraft, T-72 and T-55 tanks, or any other type of weapon that would give the Iranian army significant offensive power against the Iraqis.

Politically also, the matter of bringing pressure to bear on the Iraqi government to persuade it to implement UN Resolution 598 is considered relatively out of reach for the Soviet Union, because the Soviet government neither has the ability on its own to put decisive and fateful pressure on Iraq, nor does it feel the need to do this. For this reason, in this area also, in practical terms nothing more was given to Rafsanjani than a political gesture of friendship, which was included in the statement at the end of the trip.

After the end of the official trip to Moscow, Hashemi Rafsanjani went to Lengingradd for a brief inspection and also stayed a day in the city of Baku, the capital of Soviet Azerbaijan, on the way back to Tehran.

In Soviet Azerbaijan, Hashemi Rafsanjani participated in the Friday prayers at Baku and spoke to those present.

In Moscow, Rafsanjani's talks with Mikhail Gorbachev took place at the Kremlin. The two of them met and spoke four times from Tuesday 30 Khordad to Thursday 1 Tir [20-22 June].

Along with Rafsanjani's talks with Gorbachev, the Islamic government's foreign minister and the foreign minister of the Soviet Union held separate meetings to conclude accords the details of which had been previously agreed upon in Tehran.

Mohammad Javad Irvani, the Islamic government's minister of economic affairs and finance, who is the Iranian chief of the joint commission on cooperation between the two countries, also held separate talks with the Soviet ministers of foreign economic relations and transportation. They signed several accords which were not of great importance. Three days before Rafsanjani's trip, Irvani had gone to Moscow to hold the final talks on signing the agreement to sell natural gas and transfer it to Europe. He was to prepare the gas sale agreement for signing by Rafsanjani and Gorbachev, but agreement on this matter, which had been discussed for several months and was considered the most important matter between the two countries, was not achieved.

The failure to reach agreement on the matter of selling and transferring Iran's natural gas mainly hinges on two chief issues, pricing and the manner of pricing in the years ahead, and agreement by the two sides on the sale of weaponry needed by the Islamic Republic.

Without having any indications to that effect, the Islamic government assumed that the Soviet government's policy towards Iraq had changed and that Iran would henceforth enjoy preferential relations over Iraq with the Soviet Union. In a press conference on 18 Khordad [8 June], Hashemi Rafsanjani, in answer to a question to a correspondent from the English newspaper INDEPENDENT, said: Mr Gorbachev said that they will no longer pay any attention to Iraq.

For this reason, he expected to be able to persuade Mikhail Gorbachev to sell advanced MIG-29 fighter aircraft and other offensive weaponry. However, in practice it failed. Thus, in the final statement, at the end of his trip to the Soviet Union, there was not a word about cooperation on defense or the sale of weaponry to

Iran. The only reference made to this was in a 14- word sentence in a "statement on the principles of friendly relations and cooperation," but not in the joint statement. In the aforementioned statement, in paragraph three having to do with long-term comprehensive economic, commercial and technical cooperation, there is the sentence: In order to increase defense capability, the Soviet side agrees to increase defense cooperation with the Iranian side.

According to a commentary by the Islamic Republic Radio, not on the basis of the official joint statement, the major part of the agreements signed between the Islamic government and the Soviet Government is:

Cooperation to complete and construct dams on the Aras, Atrak, Hori Rud and Tarom Rivers; the construction of electrical power stations up to 8,000 megawatts; expanding the steel production capacity of the Esfahan foundry to four million tons; extending the Mashhad-Surkh-Tajan rail line (on Soviet soil), and continuing it along the edge of the Kavir Plain to Bandar 'Abbas.

In the joint statement, there is not even any mention of the agreement for cooperation between the two countries on shipping in the Caspian Sea, concerning which there had been much propaganda.

The only specific mention in the Gorbachev-Rafsanjani joint statement is the signing of a commercial agreement, an agreement to build a railroad, and a consular agreement. Even the matter of agreement on the building of dams and power plants and increasing the production capacity of the Esfahan foundry is mentioned only in the radio commentaries. The joint statement by the two countries, which includes short-term cooperation between the two sides, makes no reference to agreements reached in these areas.

It is to be noted that nothing new was mentioned in the matter of Afghanistan, and in matters such as Palestine, Lebanon, Namibia, South Africa, the nonaligned movement, the role of the United Nations in international disputes, and the current world economic situation, which take up half of the joint statement, only the usual slogans are given.

Political analysts in Tehran believe that the trip to Moscow by Hashemi Rafsanjani and his delegation not only failed to have the slightest effect on improving existing Iranian-Soviet relations, but it forced Hashemi Rafsanjani and other leaders of the regime to recognize the limitations on expanding relations between the two countries and not to nurture vain hopes for relations with the East.

Naturally, even if Hashemi Rafsanjani had not made the trip to Moscow, the same accords and agreemenrts for laying the railroad or building the dams on the Aras and Atrak Rivers would have been signed, they could have been signed between the economic delegations of the two countries at the ministerial level.

A report on various aspects of this trip appears on page 12 [of KEYHAN].

Editorial Views Rafsanjani Visit to USSR

PM1207133689 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 26 Jun 89 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Iran and the Soviet Union, a New Chapter"]

[Text] The important, effective, and useful trip by Johhat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the USSR showed above all that the Islamic Republic of Iran, while stressing its religious and political principles, believes in establishing good relations with all countries, especially its neighbors. This could be a lesson for all countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has never compromised with a communist regime in the Soviet Union that was dictatorial and oppressive, and that supported Stalinism. The Islamic Republic stood firm on its principles until, fortunately, a fundamental and significant change occurred in the Soviet Union, when Gorbachev took charge of the situation with admirable understanding.

Imam Khomeyni—may his soul rest in peace—paid careful attention to what happened in the Soviet Union between the years 1917 and 1989 and for more than 70 years watched the changes in a powerful yet vicissitudinous regime. Imam Khomeyni carefully watched the Bolsheviks' period of success, Lenin's reign, and Stalin's regime, followed by that of Khrushchev and Breznev, and in fact witnessed the birth of a nation. Never during this time did he consider these leaders worthy of receiving a kind, inviting, yet cautious letter from him.

But the current regime in the USSR—and especially its leader, Mr Gorbachev—does have this quality. Gorbachev's boldness in putting forward corrective measures, divorced from Marxist prejudices, was the first sign. He stood up against fanactical Marxists and remained faithful to the principle of religious freedom. He totally refused to ignore the economic reality. He reached through the metal walls surrounding ideas and political and economic beliefs and took realistic steps in the interests of the Soviet people and the Soviet Government. The withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan and other military reforms showed the Soviet goodwill. All this was enough for Islamic Iran to fulfill its holy duty. The Majlis speaker's visit, once the doors had been opened by the imam's letter, was the realization of this same duty.

27 Jun ETTELA'AT Editorial

PM1207135689 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 27 Jun 89 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Majlis Speaker's Trip: Approved by Friend, Disapproved by Foe"]

[Text] The reaction of the Western media and that of countries connected to the West, led by the United States, and the spiteful analysis of the Majlis speaker's USSR visit by their media, propaganda and official press is one of the signs of the visit's importance.

The Majlis speaker's USSR visit has been considered important and effective everywhere. The reality is that it is more important than other more ordinary trips. [passage illegible]

They are trying to portray a swing away from traditional Marxism in the Soviet Union and a swing toward political and religious freedoms, as signs of a swing toward Western philosophy and economics. They also consider this inevitable. They are worried and unhappy about a rapprochement by the Soviet Union with the peoples of the Third World.

From now on we must be more aware than ever of the conspirators of the CIA, other internal espionage organizations of the United States, Britain and their like, who have all kinds of leverage, infiltrators, and elements to cause problems and obstacles in relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and its great northern neighbor. We must be vigilant so as to ensure that these elements inside or outside the Soviet Union cannot use events in such a way, to turn them into propaganda fodder and level charges at the Islamic Republic, in order to frighten the Soviet Union and deter it from wanting to expand its relations with Iran.

At present, in order to carry out their new plans, the mass media machines of the West are spreading untruths about the Muslim republics of the USSR, using phrases such as "this is their nature" based on their own traditional beliefs.

The great and enthusiastic welcome granted by the government and the people of the Soviet Union and Soviet Muslims to the Majlis speaker, and especially the huge welcome received from the respected people of Baku, shows, first, their correct understanding of the Islamic revolution and their wish for good bilateral relations between the two governments, the two peoples, and the two regimes. Second, it shows the positive side of the policies adopted by the Soviet leadership.

Before Gorbachev it would not have been possible for a militant cleric and politician of this rank, to enter a Muslim republic and for the local people to show such affection openly, as we saw for ourselves on television.

In any case, Gorbachev's reforms have so far been approved and supported openly by officials of the Islamic Republic. This must continue. One of the results and the effects of the Majlis speaker's visit is this very thing.

Treaty on Chemical Weapons Ban Urged at UN

LD0407213589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] Mr Velayati, our country's foreign minister, today at the Geneva disarmament conference pointed to Iraqi use of chemical weapons during the war against Iran. He further sought the formation of a treaty aimed at imposing a ban on the production, storage and use of chemical weapons.

Mr Velayati then described the history of Iraqi use of chemical weapons and said: Between 1981-88, Iraq extensively used chemical weapons in the war against Iran. Our country's foreign minister stressed that the disarmament conference must reach a speedy agreement pertaining to the total and absolute destruction of such weapons.

Referring to the peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq, Mr Velayati emphasized that the UN Security Council should put Iraq under pressure to evacuate approximately 3,000 square km of Iran's occupied land. The foreign minister of our country added: The withdrawal of Iraqi forces to international borders will pave the way for the countinuation of peace negotiations which are facing a deadlock.

He then considered the attack on Iranian passenger airbus by the U.S. warship as one of the results of the foreign countries' military expeditions to the Persian Gulf. He further sought those forces' withdrawal.

Velayati Holds Talks With UN Secretary General

NC0507065989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Our country's foreign minister and the UN secretary general held a prolonged meeting last night and discussed ways and means of extricating the Iran-Iraq talks from the present impasse. Our correspondent 'Abdorrashidi reports:

[Begin 'Abdorrashidi recording] Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister, who is currently in Geneva to attend a disarmament conference, met Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, last night. The UN secretary general, who is in Geneva to attend a meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council, and Dr Velayati met for 3 and ½ hours to discuss the trend of the talks on UN Security Council Resolution 598. The UN secretary general expressed his displeasure at the nonimplementation of this resolution in the past year. He noted

that the withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized frontiers was a legal and moral responsibility and stressed that all his efforts will be directed at achieving this withdrawal.

The UN secretary general, who will also hold talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Rome, emphasized that his four-tier plan for the implementation of Resolution 598 still stands and that the UN Secretariat will focus its efforts on this plan to achieve the implementation of Resolution 598.

During the meeting, Dr Velayati recalled that the present trend of talks has not helped in the implementation of Resolution 598. Iraq remains uncooperative and obdurate toward the UN secretary general's plan and is hindering the withdrawal of forces and the subsequent implementation of the resolution.

Our foreign minister added: Withdrawal of forces is imperative and the UN's mediation role in this regard is not enough. It should explore every avenue for the complete implementation of the resolution as its responsibility. Dr Velayati said: The time has come that the trend of the talks should undergo a basic reassessment so that, if necessary, some other modus operandi may be adopted for the implementation of Resolution 598. Our foreign minister referred to the prisoners of war and said: Following withdrawal, the registration and exchange of POW's between the two countries will be facilitated. He recalled that Iraq had only registered 19,000 Iranian POW's so far, when Iraqi officials admit that there are at least 25,000 other Iranian POW's in Iraq who have not been registered. The necessary steps to create a logical balance in the number of registered POW's have not been implemented. [end recording]

The UN secretary general and our foreign minister, Dr Velayati, also discussed Afghanistan last night. At this meeting, at which the UN special envoy on Afghanistan was also present, the UN's participation in a political solution of the Afghanistan issue was discussed. According to the Central News Unit, our foreign minister briefed the UN secretary general on the latest developments on Afghanistan, especially the outcome of the recent high-level Soviet-Iranian talks in Moscow and the talks between the Iranian and Pakistani foreign ministers in Tehran and Islamabad.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's recent contacts with the Afghan mujahidin groups and the important statement issued jointly by Afghanistan's eight-member coalition council and the Islamic independent mujahidin groups of this country were also elaborated upon our foreign minister. It was stressed that political rapprochement could help all the Afghan mujahidin groups achieve their goals.

Mr Velayati also emphasized that the current new political trend of thought in the Soviet Union and the departure of this country from Afghanistan has made it clear that Moscow is inclined toward a political solution to the Afghanistan problem and the establishment of an independent and nonaligned Afghanistan which maintains cordial relations with its neighbors. It appears this sentiment prevails among the other parties involved in the Afghanistan issue. Therefore, the conditions are favorable for the Muslim Afghan people to exercise their own sovereignty over their destiny.

Meets With De Cuellar in Geneva

LD0507081289 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 5, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 and the Afghanistan issue with the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in Geneva Tuesday.

Velayati expressed Iran's dissatisfaction with the slow trend of the Iran-Iraq peace talks and accused the Baghdad regime of delaying the implementation of the resolution through propaganda ploys and procrastinations.

Velayati is currently in Geneva for the disarmament conference. In his address to the conference on Tuesday, Velayati called for total elimination of chemical weapons.

"Iran will immediately start registration and release of POWs as soon as the date of troop withdrawal to the internationally recognised borders is announced," he told De Cuellar.

Iraq still occupies over 2,500 sq kms of Iranian territory despite an explicit call by the U.N. peace plan to withdraw to the international boundaries. Iran, immediately after the acceptance of the resolution in July last year, retreated from area it had captured during the eight-year-old war.

Velayati told the U.N. chief that Iran had recently released 150 crippled and wounded Iraqi POWs in three groups but Iraq had not responded to Iran's humanitarian move.

De Cuellar praised Iran's sincere cooperation with the U.N., its flexibility and good-will and stressed that the implementation of the Resolution 598 should start with troop withdrawal.

He ruled out the presence of foreign forces in the territory of others both from legal and moral points of view.

De Cuellar expressed hope that progress would be achieved before the anniversary of the ceasefire (Aug. 20) and stressed that troop withdrawal should start immediately.

Turning to Afghanistan, Velayati announced Iran's support for the Muslim nation of the country in determining their own destiny and reiterated Iran's backing for an independent, non-aligned and Islamic Afghanistan.

"The peace procedure in Afghanistan needs great efforts," he said.

The foreign minister stressed that the issue of Afghanistan could be neither solved in Washington nor by a remote control system or supply of arms and financial aid.

Iran is decisive to help the Afghan people in their struggle for achieving a free land based on the will of the Muslim nation.

Criticizes UN on Resolution 598

AU0507141689 Paris AFP in English 1347 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Geneva, July 5 (AFP)—The Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati accused the United Nations Wednesday of failing to implement a resolution designed to end the long war between Iran and Iraq.

Mr. Velayati accused the U.N. of failing in its task over Resolution 598 which calls for the troops of both sides to withdraw to internationally recognised borders. This was "the crux of the problem", he said. Once the Iraqis had withdrawn, "everything else could be resolved".

The peace talks between the two protagonists began in May last year after a ceasefire was agreed, but after 15 further meetings, little progress has been made. The Iranians blame the Iraqis for their intransigence over the resolution.

"This has been allowed to go too far and for too long. Such a trend must be reversed without further delay, if the integrity of the resolution and the body which adopted it with much international fanfare is to be preserved," Mr. Velayati said.

Observers believe the Iranian minister wants U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to exert pressure on the Iraqi Government.

Mr. Velayati told a press conference that Mr. Perez de Cuellar had a responsibility to deal with the instability and tension generated by "the Iraqi occupation of Iranian territory".

Iraq continues to occupy 2,000 square kilometres of Iranian territory. Mr. Velayati also accused the Iraqis of concealing the presence of more than 30,000 Iranian prisoners of war within its borders.

Baghdad claims sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab (Arvand Rud) [Arvand River] waterway which divides the southern provinces of both countries.

The U.N. secretary general is to meet the Iraqi foreign affairs chief, Tariq 'Aziz, in Rome Thursday.

Mr. Velayati gave no indication of when negotiations with Iraq would resume. The last meeting took place on 24 April.

Visiting S. Korean Official Meets Aqazadeh

LD1207193389 Tehran IRNA in English 1804 GMT 11 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh told visiting South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Roh Jae-won Tuesday that Tehran and Seoul could establish more expanded ties to serve their mutual interests.

Aqazadeh, who returned early this week from a one week official visit to Seoul, termed his trip as 'positive'.

Roh announced his country's keenness to participate in Iran's reconstruction projects. The South Korean official is here as the special envoy of President Roh Tae-wu to attend a ceremony marking the 40th day of the demise of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni.

Delivers Presidential Note

LD1207193189 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Roh Chae-won today conveyed a message from President No Tae-u to deepen Tehran-Seoul ties especially in the economic field.

Roh Won is visiting Iran as a special presidential envoy for the 40th day ceremony for the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, made the announcement in his meeting with First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Besharati said Iran is ready to increase cooperation between the two countries based on mutual interests and respect.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1307124589 Tehran IRNA in English 1212 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—"We have good experiences in dealing with South Korea and welcome further expansion of ties between the two countries," Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told special envoy of the South Korean President, Roh Chae-won [name as received], here today.

The acting Armed Forces commander-in-chief also called on Roh to convey greetings of the Iranian officials to President No Tae-u and other Korean officials.

The Korean envoy conveyed the condolences of his country's president and people, and expressed hope that mutual relations would further expand under the leadership of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i. South Korea is ready to contribute to Iran's post-war reconstruction and transfer of experience to the Islamic Republic, Roh said. Roh is currently here to participate in the 40th-day ceremonies of Imam Khomeyni.

Oil, Commercial Cooperation With ROK To Expand
LD0807174989 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—All preparations have been made to expand Tehran-Seoul industrial, commercial and oil cooperation, said Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh here today.

"The volume of Iranian oil exports to South Korea will be substantially increased in the future," Aqazadeh told reporters at Tehran airport upon return from a week-long official visit to Seoul.

He said currently the Islamic Republic exports 100,000 barrels of oil per day to South Korea, but during talks in Seoul, he found that South Korean companies were keen to increase oil purchases from Iran.

The oil minister said that South Korean companies are also willing to help Iran complete a semi-finished petrochemical project and to reconstruct war-damaged offshore oil platforms in the Persian Gulf.

Aqazadeh said that his talks with Korean officials also included the purchase of several oil tankers by Iran from South Korean Hyundai Company. Final agreement will be reached during a visit to Tehran by managers of the company. He said the possibility of holding a joint economic commission would also be studied.

Aqazadeh, CSSR's Sterba Discuss Trade
LD1207191689 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—Visiting Czech Foreign Trade Minister Jan Sterba discussed expansion of Tehran-Prague economic, technical and industrial cooperation with Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh today.

Sterba in the meeting also said his country is willing to purchase one million tons of crude oil from Iran annually. The two also decided that exports of Iranian gas to Czechoslovakia via the Soviet Union be discussed in the future visit of Aqazadeh to Prague.

The Czech minister heading a delegation is here to participate in the ceremonies marking the 40th day of the demise of the leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni.

Paper Assails British 'Blasphemy' Ruling
NC1107102789 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 Jul 89 p 2

[Editorial: "U.K. Blocks All Democratic Ways to Its Muslim Community"]

[Text] British Muslim demands for viewing as crime, blasphemy against religious sanctities has been rejected by U.K. authorities. Ironically, however, effrontery to Christian sanctities is at present a crime and the one who commits it may be tried in a court of law.

Since the publication of Salman Rushdie's blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" which, by any standard, is sheer insult to Islam's holiest sanctities, British Muslims have demanded the trial of Rushdie on the basis of the said statute.

Lacking a written constitution, the United Kingdom manages its legal affairs under a common-law legal system whose warp and woof is made of communality. The British common law then means the partly unwritten legal customs that are in vogue in the British courts. To remedy obvious short comings of these common laws the courts also avail themselves of what is termed equity law.

Such weak and unsystematic legal premises of course, quite naturally, puts the legal system at a great loss and in swaddling clothes of mediocrity and shortsightedness.

It is out of such understandable shortcomings in the British legal system that pressure groups have had their own ways with it at no great effort and have quite easily always taken advantage of it to impose their views and use it to lobby for their own ends.

It is then no wonder that law in Great Britain can easily be sacrificed for the benefit of these pressure groups and powerful lobbies.

It is perhaps out of this very basic defect of the British legal system that a 1,500,000-strong British Muslim community has not had a single representative in the House of Commons or Lords in the U.K. The same factor is most surely responsible for the exclusion of Muslims from the law that allows Christians to demand the trial of those who blaspheme their religious sanctities.

This will be all the more easier to grasp when one remembers the fact that under a "cabinet system" in the U.K. almost everything is unquestioningly at the disposal of the ruling party enjoying a majority.

However, the rejection of the British Muslim appeal for the application of the law of blasphemy to their religion comes as no surprise.

It was quite predictable that given the excessive power of Mrs. Thatcher's "cabinet government" and its racist orientation, no justice would be done to the Muslim minority in the British Isles.

But it will surely not remain at that. Once deprived of their rights in spite of their great efforts to move within the premises provided by law and by peaceful and democratic means, the Muslims in Britain might have to consider ways that perhaps might not sit well with the desire for co-existence which has been blocked to them quite "democratically" of course.

If and when such developments shape up, it will be only out of ignorance that one can blame the Muslim community for the violence that might occur. Let us all be blamed that equality of all citizenry before the law constitutes the very fabric and fundaments of democratic norms in any civilized society.

Khamene'i Addresses Friday Prayer Leaders
LD0507091789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Friday prayer leaders, clergymen, seminary students, Muslim Kurdish peshmerga, volunteer forces, as well as deputies from the Islamic Majlis, officials in charge of government institutions and departments the guilds, various strata from the Kurdish inhabitants of regions of Kordestan, Bakhtaran, and Western Azarbayjan, and a number of people from [placename indistinct] and Toroq, in Natanz, today met with His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to the IRNA report, in this meeting, Kurdish Muslim brothers and sisters from the provinces of Kordestan, Western Azerbayjan, and Bakhtaran chanted slogans such as "Allegiance to Khamene'i is allegiance to the imam," and "God's hand is upon our head, Khamene'i is our leader." They consider it necessary to follow and obey the orders of the Muslim's vice regent [vali-ye amr]. In this meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Musa Musavi, representative of the leading jurisconsult in the western part of the country, in the course of the brief speech conveyed his condolences on the occasion of the demise of the great leader of the Islamic revolution to His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i and declared that those present pay their allegiance to his excellency, as the vice regent of the Muslims.

Then His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i returned condolences on the occasion of the heart-rending demise of the Imam Khomeyni, the illustrious preacher of Islam, to those present and referred to the colonialists' policies aimed at creating discord among Muslims:

The United States and its stooges and reactionary governments, using their invented religions and satanic policies, in the name of religion and unity, are constantly plotting to create discord among Muslims and different communities. From the time when the Islamic revolution began to carry the banner of Islamic unity, these efforts to split the ranks of Muslims, have increased.

The leader of the Islamic revolution, while condemning the sellers of religion who place their pens and tongues at the service of global arrogance, said: Currently some pens and tongues throughout Islamic countries are creating discord amid the Islamic ummah with money and dollars derived from the oil of the Muslims in order to drive out a great number of Islam from the circle of genuine Islam. The traces of their filthy hands can be seen in many of these discord-creating deeds.

His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i described the need for alertness and greater attention to the evils of the enemies of Islam and emphasized the need to reject those who intend to create discord and splits in the solid ranks of the people. In conclusion, the vice regent of the Muslims referred to the point that the Islamic Republic of Islam, thanks to the blessings of Islam and the revolution, the revolutionary spirit of the people, and the personality and spiritualism of the imam of the ummah, was able to solve the problems of race and tribalism and establish unity and solidarity among the people. He also stressed that efforts should be made toward the reconstruction and building up of the country. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Assails Insults to Islam
LD0507123289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Friday prayer leaders, members of the clergy and religious seminary students, the esteemed families of martyrs, Majlis deputies, local officials, and various strata of people from Bakhtaran Province and the towns of Arak, Sarband, Rasht, Ferdows, Tabas, Khansar, Bidokht-e Gonabad, and Juybar, together with Hojjaj [plural for hojjat] ol-Eslam Zarandi and Ehsanbakhsh—the representatives of the vice regent [vali-e faqih] in Gilan and Bakhtaran Provinces—and the governor-generals of the said provinces and the Central Provinces, the Majlis deputies from Bakhtaran Province, and the mourning marchers from Rasht, were this morning received by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution. They chanted slogans stating: The brother of Ruhollah [Khomeyni] has become the leader of the Hezbollah; and we are all your soldiers Khamene'i while awaiting your orders. They emphasized their obedience to Ayatollah Khamene'i. [passage omitted]

The leader of the Islamic revolution stated: Our enemies are in fact against our faith and Islam. He added: Arrogance terms us as fundamentalists. However, we are proud that we have returned to Islam and its fundamentals. This in itself is the secret of our power and strength. The world propaganda agencies, during the last few years, have been coordinating their acts in order to confront the Islamic faith of our people. The Islamic

ummah will not forgive anyone who insults Islam and the Islamic faith of people, no matter what way the insult is made, because Islam and Islamic faith is everything for us being the cause of our pride. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Addresses Zanjan Province Visitors

LD0607204789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The representative of the jurisconsult and Friday prayers leader of Zanjan; the governor; representatives of this province in the Assembly of Experts; Friday prayers leaders; clergymen; martyrs' families; officials; deputies of the Islamic Majlis;and various strata of the population of Zanjan Province and the cities of Nahavand, Kashamar, Esfarayan, Bojnurd, Torqabus, Chernaran, Eqlid, Bam, Malayer and Dehliz of Fars were received this morning by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to whom they vowed allegiance. [passage omitted]

The leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran conveyed his condolences over the heart-rending demise of the imam of the ummah. While praising the personality and lofty status of his eminence, Imam Khomeyni, he referred to the importance and effect the unity of voice of the nation has in terrifying the superpowers. He said: When unity of word exists among a nation, the power of the people multiplies. If the enemy sees that it is confronting a powerful nation it will be forced to withdraw. Our great nation, with its strength and its solid unity, was able to frighten global arrogance by this greatness.

The leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at the conclusion of his speech, said that the reason for the unbridled domination of Third World countries by oppressive and arrogant powers sprang from the fact that the people of these countries have been left outside the arena. He explained: Any nation that is united will never feel defeated in any area.

He continued: In the near future, when the referendum and presidential elections are held, the people, with their glorious presence, will deliver a hard blow to the chest of the enemies of Islam.

Khamene'i Meets People; Talks of Islamic Society

LD0907141489 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA—Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i said Sunday that one aim of the eight year old Iraqi imposed war was to delay Iran's construction. He cited the Islamic Republic as one of the rare countries in the world with numerous grounds for development.

President Khamene'i made the remarks in a meeting with people from all walks of life from different cities, who have come here to vow allegiance with the leader.

"When the Iranian nation, with the aid of sympathetic officials and managers, succeeds in constructing a developed, free and pleasant country enjoying social justice and based on Islamic values, then the Islamic [word indistinct] be exported to all Islamic countries as a model. And this is something Arrogance and Colonialism are well aware of."

Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed that the U.S. and its allies could not prevent the Iranian nation from achieving a model Islamic society.

ICA Speaker Thanks Khamene'i for Message

LD0907124389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly [ICA], expressed his thanks to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, for his message to the world's Muslims, and prilgrims to the God's House, in today's open ICA session.

The ICA speaker, having thanked the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] for his firm, potent, and expressive message to the pilgrims to God's house, described the Iranian pilgrims as the true representatives of the Islamic world and the factors behind the motivation and spirit of the hajj ceremonies. He said: Barring such people, who are the bearers of the true Islamic message and the profound missive of the Koran, is among the greatest crimes which the Saudis are committing against Islam and the Muslims.

The ICA speaker, having expressed his sorrow at the absence of Iranian pilgrims at the hajj ceremonies, this year, added: Barring the Iranian pilgrims from attending the hajj ceremonies serves to reveal the nature of the U.S.-style Islam as opposed to the pure Mohammadan Islam, and it separates and distinguishes the path of the Islamic revolution from the path of those deceivers who claim to be followers of Islam. He said: The Iranian people will not be led astray, the world will hear our cries, action, and rhetoric, as it has managed to do so far.

The ICA speaker reiterated that in future, with the presence of the Islamic revolutionary forces in the hajj ceremonies, we will give the Islamic world the gift of the true hajj. Having remarked that His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i's message is the continuation of the blessed tradition of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may God's benediction be upon him—who sent gifts of his message to the Muslims and to pilgrims to God's House, the ICA speaker called Khamene'i's message firm, with profound and expressive words covering all issues in the Islam's world, the world today, and the region.

At the end of his speech, he expressed his condolences—on the anniversary of the horrifying crime of the Saudi regime, and the massacre of pilgrims to God's House, in the safe divine sanctuary—to the families of the martyrs of this tragedy.

Khamene'i Rejects Affection That Insults Others

LD2906144689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Trade guilds from Mashhad and urban cooperatives from Khorasan Province, Hojjat-ol Eslam Sane'i—the supervisor of 15th of Khordad foundation [5 June 1963] members of the staff from that foundation, Hojjat-ol Eslam Qara'ati—the representative of the Vali-e Faqih [Jurisconsul] in the Literacy Movement—together with officials from that movement, a group of personnel from the Energy Ministry and its associate organizations, and a group of people of Aligudarz and Abdanan, met His Eminency Ayatollah Khamene'i—the Islamic Republic of Iran's leader—this morning. [passage omitted]

The vali-e amr [vice regent] of the world's Muslims [Khamene'i], in part of his speech, addressed the world's powers, graciously stating: Today we feel no weakness whatsoever before you. If you seek the affection of the Iranian nation and the Islamic republic system, then you should stop your greed and bullying, as well as ending your support for the corrupt and evil individuals who are involved in devising conspiracies against this revolution and other world revolutions. The superpowers, such as the United States, must repent their support for the counterrevolutionaries. Until that has been done, the Iranian nation's wrath against the United States will not diminish.

He then attributed the reason for Islamic Iran's power and strength to the faith and confidence of people in their ties with their God. He added: We have no cause but the implementation of divine stricutres. All the Iranian people should understand this feeling, thereby preventing any complacency and disruption in such cause. The enemy try to overestimate the country's natural problems [as heard], in order to lessen the people's momentum and incentive. However this powerful and exalted nation's efforts will be able to overcome the existing problems.

The Islamic revolution leader [as heard] then pointed to enemy efforts aimed at spreading illusions about factions and difference among the country's officials. He then called on the people to be vigilant in the face of such eveil conspiracies. Further, he emphasized the necessity of maintaining the sense of fraternity and friendship among the various strata of people, graciously stating: A very bright future is before us, and I consider that all problems can be resolved. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, emphasized the point that all the people and the country's officials should be sincere to one another while maintaining unity, within the path of Islam and for the purpose of attaining Islamic objectives. He then graciously stated: It is not appropriate that someone, for the purpose of expressing his friendship and affection toward me, should insult or attack someone else, or that he should sweep other people aside by claiming to be close or related to me. Such acts do not befit the present atmposphere, which is filled with sincerity. [passage omitted]

* Qom Sees Golpayegani as Emulation Source

46400092a London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Jun 89 pp 1, 4

[Text] Since the Islamic government, with careful planning, has introduced Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Araki, to the society as as source of emulation for the Shi'ites, with his support, a number of Ayatollahs and Hojjat ol-Eslams, including 18 of the 19 members of the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary, have elected Ayatollah Golpayegani as source of emulation, and have advised their own emulators to emulate him.

At the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary, every decision receiving a vote of 14 or more is considered final.

For centuries in Shi'ite society there have been severe differences among the high-ranking clergy, which has even extended to deep enmities and serious clashes among seminary students supporting rival sources of emulation.

As expected, the death of Ayatollah Khomeyni created a situation where, like it or not, one of the grand ayatollahs would have to be chosen and presented as the leading source of emulation.

Naturally, the leaders of the Islamic government came out in support of sources of emulation who supported their views, and whose ideas and beliefs, especially concerning the intervention of religion in politics, were in line with their interests. For this purpose, they therefore selected Ayatollah Araki, an old friend and classmate of Khomeyni, and presented him as source of emulation in accordance with previous plans and arrangements.

Under the planned procedure for presenting Ayatollah Araki, it was to occur in such a way that none of the grand ayatollahs, especially Ayatollah Golpayegani, would have the opportunity to appear.

This procedure was implemented quickly in the first week after the death of Khomeyni, so that Islamic Republic radio and the newspapers under government control mentioned only Ayatollah Araki as the source of emulation, and they even printed his biography in the KEYHAN (Tehran) newspaper. However, early last week, suddenly support began for Ayatollah Golpayegani as opposed to Ayatollah Araki (the government source of emulation) as source of emulation. In a long meeting on Friday 26 Khordad [16 June], the members of the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary chose and announced Ayatollah Golpayegani as the new source of emulation.

In order to render ineffective the decision of the members of the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary, Islamic Republic radio and television and the newspapers KEYHAN and ETTELA'AT printed no information of the selection of Ayatollah Golpayegani as the source of emulation, publishing only news about the opening of Ayatollah Araki's new office in Qom. The newspaper RESALAT, however, published by Ayatollah Azari-Qomi, himself a member of the Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary, announced the election of Ayatollah Golpayegani as source of emulation by the aforementioned society.

Among the grand ayatollahs over whom Ayatollah Golpayegani received a higher rating for knowledge, including Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Araki, and who called upon Ayatollah Khomeyni's former emulators to emulate Ayatollah Golpayegani, are Ayatollah Rasti Kashani, Ayatollah Anvari, Ayatollah Yazdi, Hojjat ol-Eslam Sheykh 'Ali-Akbar Mas'udi, Ayatollah Azari-Qomi, Ayatollah Mo'men, Ayatollah Movahhadi Kermani and Hojjat ol-Eslam Reza Ostadi.

In the course of these events Ayatollah Anvari, who is a member of the Assembly of Experts and of the Central Council of the Tehran Society of Combative Clergymen, said in support of Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani: Recently the Imam of the nation referred matters of caution in emulation to His Eminence.

The news of support for Ayatollah Golpayegani as source of emulation has not received the slightest mention on the Islamic Republic Radio or the newspapers under the regime's control, yet these same radio and newspapers report in detail on support for Ayatollah Araki as a source of emulation.

Among those who support Ayatollah Araki (the government source of emulation) one may mention Ayatollahs Salehi Mazandarani, Khatam Yazdi, and Janati and Hojjat ol-Eslams Musavi Zanjani, Barik Bin, Zarandi, Jami, Ahmadi, Nurmofidi, Seyyed Abol-Hasan Musavi and Hadi Rowhani.

It is to be noted that the first planned religious consultations to present Ayatollah Araki as source of emulation began with a query from the representatives of Ayatollah Khomeyni after his death on the issue of collecting religious contributions from emulators. Other requests for consultation were brought to Ayatollah Araki from "a group of clergymen and Qom Seminary students," whose names were not given, and this became the pretext for his issuing a religious decree as source of emulation.

Ayatollah Araki quickly took measures to establish his position and on Monday 29 Khordad [19 June] he ordered an office be opened on his behalf in Qom.

Ayatollah Araki's Qom office also published a statement asking the people to deposit their religious contributions in account 9300 of the Qom branch of the National Bank of Iran. It also gave the telephone number 27425 in Qom for contacting the office.

After Ayatollah Araki took measures to firm up his position, the leaders of the Islamic government thought Ayatollah Golpayegani had resigned himself to the situation, but it was not so. The Teachers' Society of Qom Theological Seminary closed ranks and began activities to establish a higher ranking source of emulation in Iran.

It is now expected that with the censorship that is now in force on government radio and television and the newspapers under the regime's control with regard to Ayatollah Golpayegani's status as source of emulation, his supporters will create other ways to publicize their views to the people.

Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, who is worried about a struggle over the source of emulation, warned the clergy against clashes Saturday while speaking to a group of seminary students who had come to see him. He said: Today it is religiously forbidden to provoke controversy. However, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i also knows that the matter of source of emulation in Shi'ite society is not something that can be left to a "conspiracy of silence."

* Two-Thirds of Deputies Oppose Dissolving Majlis

46400092b London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Jun 89 p 1

[Text] The first act of mass hostility against Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i from Majlis members has taken place, with 180 Majlis members protesting a measure taken by the Constitutional Reappraisal Council and opposing increased authority for the "leader" in the matter of dissolving the Majlis.

The Constitutional Reappraisal Council, in its latest measure, has given authority to the "leader" to dissolve the Majlis in the event of crisis and necessity.

Last week 180 members of the Majlis, more than two thirds of the entire body, said in a letter to the Constitutional Reappraisal Council that increasing the authority of the leadership in this area and giving authority to dissolve the Majlis to the "leader" are against the principle of popular government and called for the deletion of the article pertaining to this. The Constitutional Reappraisal Council has not yet changed the act and has not given an answer to the protest from 180 members of the Majlis.

In the beginning of the conflict between the government organizations, the newspaper IRAN TIMES, which always supports the leaders of the government, published an article defending increased authority for the "leader" and wrote that if the leader of the Islamic

Republic has full authority to dissolve the Majlis he can use this authority to prevent the creation of a severe political crisis in the country.

It is to be noted that in all the discussions and debates over the last month and a half concerning the regime's reappraisal of the Constitution by the Constitutional Reappraisal Council, one of the basic worries of Majlis members has been increased authority for the president against the Majlis, and they have never refrained from expressing this anxiety. This, however, is the first time that members of the Majlis, who see themselves as damaged by the "leader," have closed ranks against him.

Although the acts of the Constitutional Reappraisal Council are not final and must receive a vote from the people, things are done in such a way that whatever this council enacts and proposes is seen as a completed enactment.

It is said that during discussions over whether the authority to dissolve the Majlis should be given to the "leader," all five Majlis members who are also members of the Constitutional Reappraisal Council were opposed to this principle.

Political observers expect that the struggle over this important issue will not end so easily and that differences within the government will begin over this point.

Iravani on 'Population Control,' Foreign Debt

LD1207124889 Tehran IRNA in English 0909 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—The government considers population control as a priority because it has created "fundamental problems" for the economy, a minister said.

Economics and Finance Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani also said Iran should borrow from abroad to invest in projects, particularly in the oil sector, where quick and high profits would be certain.

In an interview with a monthly magazine, Iravani said the population growth rate was 3.9 percent in 1986 compared to 2.4 before the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"Therefore population control in principle accounts as one of the priority policies of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said.

He said "great stress" had been put on discouraging large families in the country's major economic, social and cultural plans.

"The fast growth of the population is one of the very important issues which has created fundamental problems for the country's economy in recent decades.

"In other words the phenomenal growth of the population during these years count among the negative and preventive factors in the development of the economy."

There are more than 50 million Iranians today, about 20 million more than in 1979 and statisticians say the population would surpass 100 million in 20 years.

Iravani said the government expected the population to grow to about 90 million in the next two decades "even if population control policies are implemented."

Recently President 'Ali Khamene'i indirectly sided in favor of fewer children per family saying it would be easier for parents to take care of children's needs if there were fewer of them.

He also said Islam did not categorically encourage people to have large families.

Iravani also said Iran should rely as much as possible on domestic institutions to fund projects but suggested that the vast resources of the country would require foreign borrowing if they were to be utilized.

"We must deal realistically with borrowing from foreign sources far from political ballyhoo," he said.

His comments were published in an interview in the first issue of an independent economic monthly, IQTESAD, in which he estimated Iran's foreign reserves, including gold, at "about 6 to 7 billion dollars."

Iravani reminded that the current budget allowed the central bank to guarantee repayment on foreign loans for a number of projects which would eventually save Iran foreign currency.

For example the budget allowed the Oil Ministry to reconstruct war-damaged oil platforms in the Persian Gulf with foreign loans because according to Iravani a great amount of money could be saved by repairing them.

He said Iran could similarly build plants to produce liquified gas (LNG) for export.

"We could build this plant by (relying on) the future sale of LNG and in view of the great assets of the national Iranian gas company there may not be even a need to give a letter of guarantee (to creditors)."

"There's no need to worry," he added because Iran had the largest gas reserves in the world after the Soviet Union.

The ministers said the common view about foreign borrowing was that loans may be sought for any kind of economic project and Iran would thus join the list of debt-ridden Third World countries.

"But if we look at the two mentioned examples we see that their implementation will not only produce foreign currency to cover project costs but will also become a great foreign currency resource for the country."

Asked what the government planned to do to encourage private investment, he said new laws were being prepared so that the necessary security would be created to drive businessmen from the service industry towards production.

He said banks could lend money to build factories or invest directly and then sell shares to the public when the project reached operational stage.

Abadan, Other Refineries' Output Increases
NC0707064489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] In the past 4 months and after the first phase of the Abadan refinery became operational, nearly 10 million barrels of crude oil were refined in this refinery.

The Central News Unit reports that this was reported by the Petroleum Ministry's director for refinery affairs, who added that, with a few exceptions, the reconstruction of the country's existing refineries has ended and that there has been a 36-percent increase in the production potential in the six existing refineries and in the Lavan refinery complex over projected output. He added that the tar and asphalt production unit of the Tehran refinery has been designed and constructed by the employees of this refinery and that this unit is currently producing 10,000 barrels of tar needed for asphalt. He pointed out that with the increase in the production of industrial parafin in the Tehran refinery, the output of this product has been increased from 160 million litres to 200 million litres a year.

Abadan Refinery Produces 10 Million Barrels
LD0907064589 Tehran IRNA in English 0605 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—Nearly 10 million barrels of oil has been refined at the war-hit Abadan refinery since it resumed operation on April 1 after undergoing major repair and reconstruction.

The oil ministry's refining director Salehi Foruz also announced that the country's six refineries plus the Lavan refining complex were now potentially able to produce an average 36 percent more than their designed capacity.

He did not elaborate.

The official said repair of war-damaged refineries had been completed with the exception of 'Isomax' units at Tabriz and Shiraz refineries. The control center of Shiraz refinery also needed further work.

During a visit by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and Tehran 'ulema to Tehran refinery, it was reported that the plant's production had increased about 35 percent to 280,000 barrels a day.

A tar production unit at the refinery designed by Iranian experts with a capacity of 10,000 barrels a day had also become operational and its annual production of industrial paraffin increased by 40 million liters.

Sri Lanka

Unidentified Gunmen Kill Tamil Leader, Colleague
BK1407000089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1759 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 13 (AFP)—Unidentified gunmen Thursday assassinated Sri Lanka's top Tamil political leader here, officials said.

Mr. Amirthalingam, 61, leader of the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) was killed at the residence of his colleague V. Yogeswaran who had been trying for some time to arrange a meeting with the dominant Tamil separatist group, officials said.

Relatives said three gunmen purported to be members of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) opened fire killing Mr. Amirthalingam and Mr. Yogeswaran instantly after a 20 minute meeting. Mr. Amirthalingam's body guards shot dead two of the attackers and wounded the other, a relative of Mr. Yogeswaran said.

A member of Parliament, Mr. Amirthalingam, 61, was a moderate but widely considered the father figure of Sri Lanka's Tamil separatist campaign for an independent homeland called Eelam.

The LTTE is currently holding peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government while carrying on a bush war against Indian troops deployed in the island.

Further on Assassination
BK1407063089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0613 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 14 (AFP)—Police investigations were under way here Friday into the assassination of two of Sri Lanka's most well known Tamil politicians by suspected Tamil militants, official sources said.

"The police are examining the matter thoroughly and looking at all the angles," a senior government official said here, referring to Thursday night's killing of the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) stalwarts.

Three men gunned down Appapillai Amirthalingam, MP, and V. Yogeshwaran, a former MP, at their joint residence from point blank range, family members said.

All the attackers were killed in turn by Mr. Amirthalingam's bodyguards.

The three gunmen reportedly came to meet the TULF leaders for a discussion on Tamil politics and opened fire after 20 minutes of talks.

Mr. Amirthalingam, 61, considered the father figure of Sri Lanka's Tamil separatist campaign, was shot through the head while Mr. Yogeshwaran received about 10 shots in the chest and stomach, witnesses and family members said.

The attackers also fired at another TULF leader, Murugesu Sivasithambaram, but he escaped with a bullet wound on the shoulder, the witnesses said.

The militants, who were armed with automatic guns, tried to escape after the slayings, but were killed by bodyguards provided by the Sri Lankan Government to protect Mr. Amirthalingam.

The witnesses said that while one of the attackers was shot dead in the first floor, another was killed near the main gate. The third gunman was injured and died in hospital later.

Mr. Amirthalingam, who left two sons, was one of the founders and leaders of the TULF, which took up the demand for an independent Tamil homeland called Eelam in Sri Lanka in 1976.

Family members said the three militants voluntarily handed over a pistol to the bodygyards on their arrival and were not frisked.

"They came in cordially and began talking," said a family source who was in an adjoining room. "They even had tea, biscuits and bananas. Suddenly, after 20 minutes, they opened fire."

Witnesses said both Mr. Amirthalingam and Mr. Yogeshwaran, who recently suffered a heart attack, died instantly. The room in which they were talking, its walls and the two staircases through which the gunmen tried to escape were splattered with blood.

Mr. Amirthalingam was one of the first to welcome the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign and devolve autonomy to the island's Tamil community.

"We condemn this strongly," said a spokesman for the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF). "People in the democratic process are being killed mercilessly."

The Eelam Revolutionary Organisation [of Students] (EROS) said: "This killing will only further complicate the Tamil problem in Sri Lanka. Revenge killings should come to an end immediately (in the country)."

The EPRLF is the ruling party in Sri Lanka's Northeastern Province and has seven members in Parliament. The EROS has 13 members in parliament.

Delhi Notes Assassination

BK1407025889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] leaders, Mr Amirthalingam and Mr Yogeswaran, have been gunned down in Colombo last evening. Mr Amirthalingam was the secretary general of the TULF and a member of the Sri Lankan Parliament, while Mr Yogeswaran was a former member of the Sri Lankan Parliament.

Reports from Colombo say that gunmen entered the residence of the TULF leaders and opened fire, killing Mr Amirthaligam and Mr Yogeswaran on the spot and injuring the TULF president, Mr Sivasithamparam. The bodyguards of the TULF leaders returned the fire, killing all the three assailants. The identity of the assassins and details of the incidents have not been announced, as the media is under a safe blanket of censorship in Sri Lanka.

It may be recalled that Mr Amirthalingam has recently said that his life was being threatened by the LTTE, following his speech in the Sri Lankan Parliament. Mr Amirthalingam had strongly criticized the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Government's call for the immediate withdrawal of the Peacekeeping Force. The LTTE had issued a threat to Mr Amirthalingam's life after his speech.

The suspected hand of the LTTE in the assassination spree is seen in political circles in line with the LTTE's attitude of saying something and doing exactly the other. They have been talking of peace and cease-fire while continuing their violent activities.

The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr Karunanidhi, in a statement in Madras expressed shock at the assassination of the TULF leaders.

'Assassins' Identified

BK1407075189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] Reports from Colombo say two of the assassins of the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] leaders, Mr Amirthalingam and Mr Yogeswaran, have been identified. They are Vishu, LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader of the political wing in Vavuniya, and Aloysius, also of the LTTE. The third attacker has not yet been identified.

The TULF leaders, Mr Amirthalingam and Mr Yogeswaran, were gunned down and the party president, Mr Sivasithamparam, was wounded in Colombo last evening by the three assassins.

The Northeastern provincial government in Sri Lanka has declared a 3-day official mourning from today as a mark of respect to the departed leaders. According to an official spokesman, the bodies will be cremated with full state honors at Jaffna central college ground. The bodies will be flown to Jaffna and will be kept at Selvanayagam memorial to enable the people to pay their last respects.

Action Threatened To 'Eject' Indian Forces
BK1307122589 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 13 Jul 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has warned that it will take action to eject Indian troops from the country if they fail to leave as requested by the end of the month. No more details are available about the announcement, but Mark Tully in Delhi says there is now a danger of clashes between Sri Lankan forces and the Indian troops. The Sri Lankan warning came as talks about the crisis continued in Colombo between government officials and an Indian envoy.

[Begin Tully recording] The Sri Lankan announcement came the day after a sternly worded letter from the Indian prime minister was delivered to President Premadasa rejecting his call for the Indian Army to withdraw without further discussions. In his letter, the Indian prime minister threatened to decide when to pull out the army unilaterally if President Premadasa did not agree to discuss the withdrawal. The Sri Lankan foreign minister was asked by journalists whether there was now a danger of clashes between the Sri Lankan and the Indian Army. He said let it be so.

The special envoy who carried Rajiv Gandhi's letter to President Premadasa had more talks in Colombo today. But their outcome is not yet known.

Meanwhile, the transport strike in Sri Lanka, which was in its 5th week, has now ended. The government and transport workers have reached agreement on a pay deal which will given an average increase of 10 percent. Reports from Sri Lanka indicate that they were discussions between the government and the left-wing People's Liberation Front or the JVP which had called the strike. The state of emergency was imposed during the strike and last week strict press censorship was imposed. Despite of the ending of the strike, the government said censorship will remain in force until what it called the subversion is over. It is not clear whether the government means by that the confrontation with the Indian Government over the Peacekeeping Force in the north or the attacks and sabotage by the JVP in the south. [end recording]